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"The files I have cleared are not mere paper, but Government orders which light up the lives of many people and give life to many schemes".

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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- One year of achievements celebrated with éclat: Chief Minister exudes confidence in taking forward Amma's reign 04
- GSDP growth at 8.03 % in 2017-2018, will surpass 9 % in 2018-2019..........16
- 'Central Government should immediately form Cauvery Management Board' 56
- Manifold steps to give Artisans a big hand..........61
- Chief Minister hands over Rs. 20 lakh cheques to kin of missing fishermen..........81
- Tamil Virtual Academy's new software..........82

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** released the 'One Year Achievements Souvenir' of the Tamil Nadu Government under his leadership which treads in the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, at the 'One Year Achievements' function held at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai on 23.03.2018. Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister **Thiru. O. Panneerselvam** received the copy.

One year of achievements celebrated with éclat

Chief Minister exudes confidence in taking forward Amma's reign

Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai on 23.03.2018 at the Tamil Nadu Government's 'One Year Achievement' function *(English Translation).*

I bow in the direction of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who is the lifeline of 1.5 crore party workers, who lives in the heart of 7.5 crore Tamils and whose memory remains evergreen among the people.

Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, a 'Magam'- born star, conquered the Jagam (world) by living with the people and said, "My abode and my heart are always with Tamil Nadu and I shall always live with my people". She is a divine power, blessing us from the sandal box in which she was laid to rest in the shores of the Bay of Bengal.

Every day of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's life made history as she attracted people through schemes and protected them through laws. She earned the status of being the eternal celebrity by serving the people. With the blessings and grace of our Amma, a historic figure, this function is being held to mark the completion of one year rule of the present Government.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Annan Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, who made the inaugural address in this special function, Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Thiru. P.Dhanapal, who gave the presidential

address, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity, Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble MPs and MLAs, who are gracing the function by their presence, office-bearers of the party headquarters, deputy co-ordinator of the party, Thiru. K.P.Munusami, Party Organizing Secretary, Thiru. Ponnaiyan, former Ministers, MPs and MLAs, the Chief Secretary, Dr.Girija Vaidyanathan, who welcomed the gathering, and Secretary of the Tamil Development and Information Department, Thiru R.Venkatesan, who is to propose the vote of thanks, Secretaries, higher officials and Government employees, who made excellent arrangements setting up various stalls, party elders and brothers, elders, ladies, friends from the visual and print media, at the outset, I welcome you all for the function.

"Solluthal Yaarkum Eliya – Ariyavaam Solliya Vannam Seyal" said Tiruvalluvar. (It is easy to say something, but very rare to have the power to do as one says).

Hon'ble Amma is one who implemented many schemes that were not possible for others. She accomplished not only what she promised but also achieved what she had not promised.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma created history by assuming the post of the Chief Minister six times and presented many welfare schemes for the people. That was the reason Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made the history after 32 years, of an incumbent party succeeding to power for a second consecutive term .

When Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma completed one year rule after coming to power for the fourth time, newspapers and media people hailed the one year rule as one that will be spoken of, for a hundred years. With a view to retaining the reputation that Hon'ble Amma gained, we are continuing the welfare schemes

that have been left behind by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

During the one year rule, the present Government inaugurated 38,339 schemes, costing Rs.17,619 crore, and laid the foundation for 7,408 works, estimated to cost Rs.14,476 crore. This is just an indication of the many records that the present Government has created.

In keeping with the motto, 'Good governance in Amma's path, One year achievements prove that', our records in the past year are many. In fact, they are innumerable and cannot be listed in a short time. So, I would like to mention a few during this function.

The Opposition Parties, and parties which have sprouted up recently and the leaders of those parties, asked how many schemes the present Government had brought after the demise of Hon'ble Amma. They are also indulging in loose talk and asking how much the people benefited by those schemes. I am duty-bound to inform them with facts and figures of various schemes implemented by this Hon'ble Amma's Government in the last one year and how far these schemes reached the people.

I was trained both in politics and administration in the workshop (Paasarai) of Hon'ble Amma. That is why from February 16 last year to till date I have cleared 5,748 files. The files I have cleared are not mere paper, but Government orders which light up the lives of many people and give life to many schemes.

From this, you can understand how Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government functions in the State.

Born in the family of a poor farmer, I associated myself with the AIADMK party to serve the people. I worked under the leadership of Puratchi Thalaivar and then under the Hon'ble Amma. I gradually moved up the ladder after strenuous work and reached the position of the Chief Minister of the State. AIADMK is the only party which rewards the loyalty and hard work of workers.

We always have the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who guides and supports us. That is why we got the unique opportunity of celebrating Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s centenary celebrations in 30 Districts. I, along with my cabinet colleagues, participated in the celebrations and met lakhs of people in the celebrations and fulfilled their demands. The present Government which follows the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has been implementing many welfare schemes for the benefit of the poor and the farmers.

Puratchi Thalaivi Amma knew well that agriculture was the backbone of Tamil Nadu and only if agriculture was prosperous, Tamil Nadu would be strong. The present Government which is treading the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been sanctioning several crore rupees for agriculture.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar said that god, who is the head for all of us, selected agriculturists as workers. The present Amma Government is bent on improving the standard of living of farmers.

In the last one year alone … The State witnessed severe drought, the worst ever in the last 142 years. Farmers were the

worst affected by the drought. For the drought-affected farmers, the Government sanctioned Rs. 2,247 crore. Opposition parties and other political parties are alleging that the present Government did nothing for farmers. But I would like to inform them that the present Amma Government was the only Government that sanctioned drought relief.

Even now the State is reeling under severe drought.

Under the crop insurance scheme, the Government has sanctioned Rs. 3,020 crore as compensation to more than 9 lakh farmers affected by drought.

Coconut farmers had demanded that they should be allowed to produce Neera and the Government agreed to their demand.

For improving the income of dry-land farmers, the Government has introduced 'Mission on Sustainable Dry Land Agriculture', at a cost of Rs. 802.90 crore. A sum of Rs.100 crore has been given as assistance to 2 lakh small and marginal farmers who have been integrated into 2,000 farmer producer groups and provided Rs. 5 lakh for each group.

1,158 farm ponds have been formed.

3,846 check dams have been set up.

Apart from this, for the benefit of delta farmers, Kuruvai and Samba package scheme has been introduced at a cost of Rs.98.07 crore.

As per the path laid down by the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, we are giving priority to poverty alleviation programmes.

To improve the status of economically poor families, Amma's Government facilitated Rs. 5,759 crore as bank loans for 1,86,756 self-help groups, to start their own business.

Under the distribution milch cows at no cost scheme, 8,417 beneficiaries have been given milch cows at a cost of Rs.49.83 crore.

Beneficiaries numbering 97,473 have been given 3,89,892 goats and sheep at no cost, worth Rs.198.75 crore.

For many rural women, the distribution of milch animals and goats scheme at no cost, came as a boon to earn a decent income thereby bringing light into their lives.

The present Hon'ble Amma Government is interested in the welfare of fishermen, who pledge their lives to their profession. The Government has been implementing many schemes for the fishing industry.

Four hundred and forty-two Tamil Nadu fishermen who were incarcerated in Sri Lankan jails and 40 Tamil Nadu fishermen detained in Iran prisons were released from the prisons and brought to Tamil Nadu.

The Government has sanctioned Rs. 20 lakh each to the families of 42 fishermen, who lost their lives in the Ockhi cyclone. For families of 177 fishing fishermen, Rs.35.40 crore has been sanctioned as relief.

A new Fisheries College and Research Institute was declared open in Thalaignayiru at a cost of Rs.68.17 crore.

Aavin Tetra pack milk sale was introduced in Singapore.

For the benefit of middle class people, rules were framed for regularizing unapproved layouts and plots.

Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority and Appellate Tribunal have been formed.

"Nalla Nalla Pillaikalai Nambi indha Naade irukkudhu Thambi", (The Nation expects much from good kids), sang Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar.

It is possible to make good students only through education. Based on the ideal that only through education a prosperous Country can be developed, Hon'ble Amma's Government is giving more importance to education.

An educational revolution has been created in the enrollment of students in the primary and middle schools, which has registered a substantial increase in the last one year, thanks to the long-term perspective of the Hon'ble Amma Government.

The enrollment rate is a pointer to the State achieving cent per cent literacy.

After we took over power, in the last one year….

New syllabus has been created to upgrade the quality of education.

2,612 teachers and 4,362 non-teaching staff have been appointed.

To relieve the tension of students, ranking systems for the first three places in the 10th and 12th standard examinations have been dispensed with.

Common examination has been introduced for 11th standard students from the current academic year.

412 training centres have been established to prepare students from Tamil Nadu to compete successfully in the competitive examinations.

Results of 10th and 12th standard examinations are intimated through SMS facility in cell phones.

5,11,074 students have been given laptops at no cost basis.

In the Higher Education Department in the last one year, 11 new Arts and Science Colleges, and one Government Multi-disciplinary Polytechnic College have been opened.

New law colleges have been inaugurated in Villupuram, Dharmapuri and Ramanathapuram.

The State stands first in the number of students studying higher education in the Country. This is possible due to proper environment created by the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. With the enrollment percentage of 46.90 in higher education, the State stands first in the Country.

The State Government has sanctioned Rs.10 crore for the Tamil Chair in Harvard University in the US.

Due to revolution made by the present Government, which follows the path laid down by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, we have given life to Mahakavi Bharathiyar's song 'Kalviyir Sirantha Tamil Nadu'.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took much care of the health of people and introduced many health-oriented schemes, giving special importance to the health of Village people. We who are treading the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, in the last one year have appointed 6,438 health personnel, including 4,468 doctors to provide medical service to people without interruption.

Last year a Medical College and Hospital was declared open in Pudukkottai. We received 5,933 organs as donations through transplantations from 1,056 brain-dead patients. Through this, thousands of patients got a second life. They are all living happily. Not only that, for the first time in the Country, Tamil Nadu doctors made history by successfully transplanting two arms from a brain-dead person to another patient, who had lost both his hands. Nowhere in the Country has such an operation been performed. This was achieved by doctors in our Government Hospital. This apart, I am proud and happy to say that Amma's Government made it possible to place the State in the forefront in the heart and kidney transplantations.

Under the Chief Minister's extended health insurance scheme, about 6.51 lakh patients were provided treatment at a cost of Rs.930.76 crore.

Financial assistance under the Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity benefit Scheme has been increased to Rs.18,000/- and 5.64 lakh pregnant women have benefited to the tune of Rs. 513.64 crore.

As sung by Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. in praise of the newly born child, "Azhagu Magan Mazhalai Mozhi, Then Podhigai Senthamizho, Ilanagaithaan Sirukathaiyo, Idhayamadhai Ezhuthiyatho, Muthumugam Muzhu Nilavo, Muppathu Naal Varum Nilavo", Amma's Government is giving Amma Nutrition Kit, including iron tonic to anemic pregnant women to help them deliver healthy babies.

Since the Medical Department functioned vigilantly with a sense of sacrifice, the State was able to eradicate dengue and other types of diseases.

Today, the Government Hospitals are providing medical services on par with those provided by corporate hospitals. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma improved the standard of the Government Hospitals to world class by appointing specialist doctors and providing 24-hour medical care to the public to save the people from various diseases.

The present Government, which is following the path of the Hon'ble Amma, is giving importance to giving medical care to people. That is the reason why the State is in the third position in health indices according to NITI Aayog.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took much interest in the welfare of women and their security. She always used to stress this point to us. As this is Amma's Government we see all women in Tamil Nadu as Amma.

The National Crime Records Bureau has ranked Chennai as the safest Metro city and Coimbatore as the Safest Major city for women in the Country.

Hon'ble Amma announced that two-wheelers will be given on subsidy to working women. Some people had doubts on whether the Hon'ble Amma's announcement would be kept by the present Government. To dispel their doubts, the scheme was inaugurated on the Birth Anniversary of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and is being implemented successfully. I am happy to announce in this function that every year, one lakh vehicles will be given to working women under the scheme. I am proud to say that the Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the 'Amma two wheelers for women' scheme and inaugurated the 70 lakh saplings planting scheme on the Birth Anniversary celebrations of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

During the one-year rule, the most important achievement is the Kudimaramathu Iyakkam, which has become a people's movement.

In the first phase under the Kudimaramathu Scheme, Rs.100 crore was allotted and 1,519 works were completed. Following the demand from farmers, 2,650 more works are being undertaken in 30 Districts at a cost of Rs.331.68 crore. The silt removed from the tanks, channels, and dams is being used as natural manure in farm lands. Besides, water

bodies tanks are deepened, which in turn increases their storage.

Wherever the Kudimaramathu scheme is implemented, ground-water level also increases substantially. Farmers are praising the Government for implementing the scheme, which they consider as long-term perspective scheme. I am happy to announce that for the first time after 83 years, Mettur Dam has been de-silted. Thanks to de-silting, the water storage of the Mettur Dam increased by 15 tmc ft. during Monsoon rains.

Hon'ble Amma wanted to make the State hut-free and worked for it. To realize the dream of Amma, the present Government, which functions in the path laid down by Amma, has been implementing schemes to provide houses to poor people.

In one year of our rule, 9,847 houses have been constructed under 14 schemes at a cost of Rs. 593.88 crore through the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board.

About 40,000 green houses with solar power are being constructed at a cost of Rs. 840 crore under the Chief Minister's Green House Scheme.

Under Houses for all scheme, permission has been granted for construction of 1,62,571 houses, at a cost of Rs.6,635.10 crore.

"Irumbai Kaaychi Urukiduveere, Yendirangal Vaghuthiduveere, Karumbai Chaaru Pizhinthiduveere, Kadalil Moozhgi Mutheduppeere", said Mahakavi Bharathiar, while praising the manifold labour of workers. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is the revolutionary woman envisioned by Bharathiar.

The present Government, which follows the path of Amma, has cleared arrears for retired transport corporation employees, including their gratuity, PF and retirement benefits to the tune of Rs.2,147 crore, considering the welfare of the transport workers.

Four per cent reservation has been provided for differently-abled candidates in Government Public Sector undertakings, Boards, Corporations and Educational Institutions.

Mahakavi Bharathiyar said, 'We will make arms, good paper, set up industries and establish schools'.

As per the words of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, Amma's Government is setting the stage for an industrial revolution in the State by implementing various good schemes. To attract big industries to take Tamil Nadu in the path of development, the Government has strengthened the online single window scheme by enacting the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, 2018 and also a portal for early single window clearance.

A freight park is to be set up at a cost of Rs.1,295 crore, on a 360 acre site in Puzhuthivakkam and Vayalur Villages in Ponneri division in Tiruvallur District.

The foundation stone has been laid for an Aerospace Park through SIPCOT on 245 acres. This will attract investments to the tune of Rs.1,000 crore and provide direct employment to 10,000 people and indirect employment to 25,000 people.

Under the integrated road infrastructure development scheme, 3,143 kms of roads will be upgraded, at a cost of Rs.813.70 crore and steps have been taken for constructing 120 small bridges.

Improvements to 5,061 kms length of roads and 99 bridges and 638 road safety works have been taken up at a cost of Rs. 2,772 crore. Integrated modern bus ports are to be set up at Salem, Coimbatore, and Madurai under Bharatmala Scheme.

Phase I of the Chennai Metro Rail Project is almost in the final stage. Under Phase II programme, a detailed project report covering a length of 107.55 km has been sent to Central Government for its approval. Metro Rail project will soon implemented in Coimbatore City. Combined drinking water supply scheme is to be implemented throughout Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs. 1,781.50 crore.

To streamline the Public Distribution System, 1.88 crore smart family cards are issued at a cost of Rs.330 crore. A total of 15,622 personnel have been appointed for uniformed services. Coimbatore R.S.Puram Police Station has been selected as the best Police Station in India and the Chennai Anna Nagar Police Station the fifth Station in the Country.

Due to persistent efforts of Hon'ble Amma Government, the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation obtained Digital broadcast license from the Central Government. Ten lakh set-top boxes have been given free of cost. Steps have been initiated to provide Internet broadband service to all Villages through Bharat Net Scheme, at a cost of Rs.1,230.90 crore. The e-Governance policy, 2017 has been developed to guide e-Governance projects in the State. Tamil Nadu stands second in the Commercial Taxes and Goods and Services Tax collection. A web-based software has been introduced in the registration of documents to make registration of documents easy. A Manimandapam is to be constructed for Uzhavar Perunthalaivar

Narayanasami Naidu at Annur in Coimbatore District. A Manimandappam is to be constructed for Dr. Pa. Sivanthi Adhithanar in Tiruchendur.

People know that the present Government has been implementing various schemes for their welfare without any publicity. This Government is not functioning with election as its aim. This Government's intention is to provide service to people and draw schemes for that purpose.

Based on that only, the Government is taking legal steps to assert the rights of Tamil Nadu in the Inter-State river dispute. The Government has been insisting that the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Regulation Committee be set up as directed by the Supreme Court within six weeks. I hope the Central Government will implement the Supreme Court ruling in this connection.

The storage level of the Mullai periyar Dam has been increased to 142 feet from 136 feet due to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government's firm, constructive and sustained efforts through legal means. It is a victory for Tamil Nadu after 37 years and the victory was significant, especially for Tamil Nadu farmers. Now, steps are being taken by the Amma Government to increase the storage level to 152 feet (full storage level).

At this juncture, Amma's speech comes to my mind. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said, "As far as I am concerned, I am not for capturing power at any cost. My aim is to do good for the people. For that, power is necessary. That is why, I am holding the post of the Chief Minister".

'Vazhnthavar kodi, Marainthaavar Kodi, Makkalin Manadhil Nirpavar yar ?" (crores of people lived, crores departed, Whose memory is it that is engraved in the minds of the people?). Both Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma will continue to remain in the hearts of people as they implemented many schemes for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden.

I would like to inform you at this time that in memory of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, a Memorial will be constructed on the Marina in the place where the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has been laid to rest. Similarly, to enshrine the eternal fame of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, Amma's house Veda Nilayam will be converted into a Government Memorial.

Above all, the portrait of Hon'ble Amma, who declared, 'I am by the people and I am for the people', was declared open in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. The legislature itself got fame because of the portrait. The present Government, which treads the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, will be celebrated by the people for implementing various welfare schemes. After implementing various welfare schemes announced by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the last one year, we are stepping into the second year of rule.

On 15.03.2018, the present Government presented the budget with a long-term perspective and it also announced new schemes to be implemented.

As it is a tax-free budget, people praise it. Opposition parties, which could not digest this,

are criticising the budget without looking into the positive aspects. We cannot blame them as their only job is to criticize the Government and it is our duty to serve the people as ordained by the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and we will not move away from our duty.

People are closely watching the victorious run of our golden rule and they know which is the true face and which is the made up, fake face. By criticizing the present Government, the opposition parties want to be in the limelight. Those who seek publicity by criticizing us will perish by the same publicity. They are all like thorny bush that will shrivel up after some time. They could not withstand even a small political storm and will automatically disappear. It is not possible to destabilize the AIADMK even in 100 years as it is a party built by volunteers who are guiding the party. Every day the party is getting stronger with the addition of more party volunteers.

Some party men have left the party by mistake. They are all children of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and they will definitely come back to the party and realize the dream of Amma.

The present Government is only a continuation of the golden rule of the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government. So, the present Government is also Amma's Government and it will definitely find a place in history. Let us all take a pledge to work for the continuation of the present Amma Government.

'Thaai Vazhi Vandha Thangangal Ellaam, Oar Vazhi Nindru Ner Vazhi Sendral Naalai Namade, Endrum Naalai Namade', sang Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. in one of his songs. He has underscored in this song that unity and integrity pave the way for victory. I appeal to party volunteers to remain united as per the words of the song.

At this juncture, a story comes to my mind.

In a forest all animals were living in unity. This was not to the liking of a fox. It wanted to drive away all animals from the forest and to live alone in the forest as a king. Its idea was

supported by a wolf. When these two animals walked together, they came across a bear. The bear asked the fox whether it has brought any news from town. Knowing well that the bear was loose-tongued and would publicize even small matters throughout the forest, the fox decided to use the bear for its plan. It told the bear that both he and the wolf were rushing out of the forest as the forest would perish due to impending tsunami and storm that were going to lash the forest.

Immediately the bear informed all the animals in the forest and all the animals in the forest starting running out of the forest out of fear. Both the wolf and the fox gleefully watched the scene from a mountain top.

Meanwhile, the wolf devised another plan. It thought if the fox also was driven out of forest, then it could become the king of the forest. At that time a hunter came that way. On seeing the hunter, the wolf hid itself in a bush nearby. The hunter spread his net and caught hold of the fox. The trapped fox cried for help in vain as the wolf had already escaped from the scene.

If all animals had remained in the forest then they would have saved it, realized the fox, regretting its action. So, we should not fall a prey to traitors, but remain united.

If we work in harmony, Hon'ble Amma's Government will remain for another hundred years. We will take Tamil Nadu forward based on Amma's 'Thaarakaa Mandram' - Peace, Growth and Development.

In the last one year, we have faced many challenges. As told by the Hon'ble Speaker of the Assembly, the Government faced tribulations never faced by any Government. But all those troubles were converted into stepping stones of success and we have completed one year of successful governance.

I thank the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, other Ministerial colleagues, and above that, the MLAs who want Amma's reign to continue for ever, the MPs who are raising their voices in Parliament for the rights of the State, all party office-bearers, party volunteers who are the roots of the organization and the public, who wanted the Amma Government to remain in the State for ever. I also thank on this occasion, the Chief Secretary and other Department Secretaries who are with her, Higher Officials of the State, and all Government employees.

Even though the laws and schemes are made by the Government, their implementation is in the hands of Government employees. Without their active co-operation, it is not possible to implement welfare schemes. Similarly the print and visual media are responsible for publicizing these schemes and making the people aware of them. I thank the media personnel also.

Yesterday was ours, Today is ours, Tomorrow will also be ours. Vaazhga Anna Namam, Valarga Puratchi Thalaivi Pugazh, Thodarga Ammaavin Aatchi.

Nandri, Vanakkam.

'GSDP growth at 8.03 % in 2017-2018, will surpass 9 % in 2018-2019'

Speech of the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. O. Panneerselvam,** presenting the Budget for the year 2018-2019 to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 15.03.2018.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

ஈதல் இசைபட வாழ்தல் அதுவல்லது

ஊதியம் இல்லை உயிர்க்கு

(குறள் 231)

See that thy life the praise of generous gift obtain;

Save this for living man exists no real gain

(Kural 231)

There is no greater gift and profit to a human than that of giving to the poor and living with their praise. True to these words of the divine poet Thiruvalluvar, our sagacious leader, **the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa,** an unparalleled leader in the history of Tamil Nadu, reached the pinnacle of glory by her compassion and commitment for uplifting the people of Tamil Nadu. It was only

through her sweat and toil that this Government was elected by the historic verdict of people in 2016. Though the mortal remains of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma are at rest on the shores of Bay of Bengal, the eternal spirit of Amma continues to guide our Government under the able leadership of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** to continue our march on the path laid by her and fulfill her dream of making Tamil Nadu the **numero uno** State in the Country. I bow before the great soul of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma once again and rise to present the Budget Estimates for the year 2018-2019 to this august House.

2) This Government is committed to implementing all the programmes launched by the great leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who lives in the hearts of people. The development paradigm of **peace, progress** and **prosperity** spelt out by our visionary leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma will continue to be our guiding principle on our growth path. None can deny that Tamil Nadu has evolved into a model welfare State and our welfare schemes in the realms of public health, education and social security have substantially improved our Human Development Indices. Just as the rising tide lifts all boats, accelerated economic growth will certainly improve the economic condition of all families. However, to narrow down the gap between the rich and the poor and to bring about economic equity, we continue to implement welfare schemes specially designed to target the poor and the downtrodden. Thus, while giving thrust to economic development, welfare programmes continue to be part of our development paradigm.

3) This budget is being presented under challenging circumstances. The economy needs to be steered ahead in a hazy environment due to the transformational changes that have happened in the Country post demonetisation and GST implementation. At this critical juncture, the State is facing major challenges in-

- **Attracting investments and creating more jobs**
- **Training youth to make them employable**
- **Improving farm productivity and farmers' income**
- **Urban development and upgrading basic amenities and infrastructure**
- **Housing to the poor and achieving the objective of housing for all**
- **Natural resource management, particularly in water management**
- **Eradication of poverty both in urban and rural areas**
- **Providing quality education, health care and sanitation with universal coverage**
- **Mitigating the adverse impact of climate change and protecting the coast from sea erosion**
- **Fiscal consolidation against inadequate central devolution and slow growth of tax and non tax revenues**

This Budget focuses on strategies to tackle these ten challenges and to lead our State on the path of accelerated economic growth and to

prosperity.

Economic Development

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

4) The pace of economic growth in the State has picked up in 2017-2018 and will continue to improve in 2018-2019. The Gross State Domestic Product of the State in real terms is expected to grow at 8.03 per cent in 2017-2018. As the economic outlook of the State is favourable, **the sustained investments made by this Government in the primary sector and the measures taken for invigorating the industrial investment in the State could drive the economic growth further to surpass 9 per cent in 2018-2019.**

Goods and Services Tax

5) Hon'ble Members are aware that the Country witnessed the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on 1st July 2017. The Union Government will compensate the States for any loss of revenues in the first five years of GST implementation. During the period from July 2017 to February 2018, the State has received Rs.632 crore as GST compensation from the Government of India. I am confident that our State will stand to gain from GST in due course, since the gap between the projected revenue with 14 per cent growth rate and actual revenue has been shrinking considerably over these eight months.

Planning and Development

6) The 'Vision Tamil Nadu 2023' document, formulated and launched by our visionary leader, the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is the guiding beacon for this Government in formulating new developmental programmes and social welfare schemes. The Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation (TNIFMC) has been mobilizing financial resources to fund new infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu to realize this Vision. The State Government has released Rs.30 crore as part of its commitment of Rs.300 crore to First Loss Catalytic Capital (FLCC) of TNIF. **An allocation of Rs.270 crore has been made in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 for meeting the balance FLCC commitment and Rs.100 crore has been provided for the Project Preparation Fund of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board.**

7) **A sum of Rs.100 crore has been allocated in this Budget for the State Balanced Growth Fund (SBGF) which was instituted to bring about balanced economic development across various regions of the State. Similarly, an amount of Rs.75 crore has been allocated for the Special Area Development Programme (SADP) which caters to the specific needs of people of the hilly areas, with special focus on sustainable use of natural resources for economic development. The Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) Programme will be continued with an allocation of Rs.100 crore to support innovations in administration.**

Disaster Relief

8) The Government had swiftly launched search and rescue operations in the sea after 'Ockhi' cyclone hit the coastal areas of Kanniyakumari District. So far, 3,506 fishermen and 288 fishing crafts have been

rescued safely. The Government has declared 177 fishermen as untraceable and has disbursed Rs.20 lakh to each affected family. Totally, Rs.124.11 crore was released for relief and rehabilitation towards the damages caused by Ockhi cyclone and Rs.51.05 crore was released for restoring the damaged infrastructure and providing relief to the affected families in the aftermath of incessant rains during November, 2017. **An amount of Rs.786 crore has been provided for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for the year 2018-2019.**

9) As a permanent remedy to mitigate the impact of floods in Chennai and its suburban region, **a comprehensive flood management plan for North Chennai and South Chennai has been prepared at an estimate of Rs.2,055.67 crore and Rs.1,243.15 crore respectively and submitted to the Central Government for support. The Government is also preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for establishing an integrated fishing harbour and fish processing park at Thengappattinam in Kanniyakumari District and will seek central support. I am confident that the Central Government would support these projects with financial assistance.**

Poverty Eradication

10) The Mission for Poverty Eradication is being implemented in the State with the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women as the nodal agency. This Mission aims at alleviating poverty from rural and urban areas by extending support for health and education, besides creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. In the Pudhu Vaazhvu Project, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed and trained adequately at village level and provided with credit linkages with banks. Consolidating the gains from this project, **the Government will commence the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP) funded by the World Bank, in 120 blocks of 26 Districts at an estimated cost of Rs.920.63 crore.** This project will promote SHG led micro-enterprises at the village level and federate them to create producer companies at the block or District level to help the rural enterprises reap the benefits of economies of scale. **An allocation of Rs.100 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 for this project. The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) are also being implemented in 265 blocks, thus covering all the blocks in the State under poverty eradication programmes. A total allocation of Rs.519.81 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 for all the rural poverty eradication programmes.**

11) The Government is implementing the Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission (TNULM) by supplementing the resources of the Government of India's National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM). Tamil Nadu had received Rs.59.40 crore from the Government of India under the NULM in 2017-2018. **A total allocation of Rs.300 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 for urban poverty alleviation programmes.**

Employment and Skill Development

12) The employment exchanges in the State have already been modernized, networked and converted into placement facilitation centres. The Government had doubled the monthly allowance for the unemployed youth in 2017-2018 and Rs.31.01 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for this purpose. **A State level Career Guidance Centre will be created which will network with the District level employment exchanges through an online portal and will connect job seekers, companies and private placement agencies. The Government will also offer counselling to unemployed persons, who are registered with employment exchanges and are drawing unemployment allowance, through District level placement facilitation centres and will train them under the skill development programme to improve their employability.**

13) Vocational training is provided in the State through 88 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), 484 private ITIs and 385 Industrial Schools. Out of the 88 Government ITIs, all except 26 have been brought under the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) affiliation. **This Government will upgrade these 26 ITIs also at a cost of Rs.126 crore and bring them under the NCVT affiliation over a period of 2 years. The present infrastructure gap in Government ITIs will be filled up at a cost of Rs.30 crore for enabling them to receive Central grants. The Government will introduce new advanced courses, namely medical electronics, advanced machine tools, tool and dye making, power electronics and architectural assistance in 20 ITIs at a cost of Rs.38 crore, which will improve employment opportunities of the ITI students. The Government will introduce internship programmes in collaboration with industries to provide 10,000 students with industrial exposure and equip them with necessary skills for employment.**

14) The Government has nominated the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation as the nodal agency for the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Mission (TNSDM). Under this Mission, 4.32 lakh youth have been trained since its inception and 1.03 lakh persons have got placements. The new higher level training programme launched with the support of M/s. Siemens Limited is progressing well. This Government is also implementing Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana to impart skill training. **The allocation for TNSDM will be enhanced from Rs.150 crore to Rs.200 crore in 2018-2019 to give further impetus to skill development. During 2018-2019, another two lakh youth will be provided with skill training by pooling resources from various schemes. The Overseas Manpower Corporation will step up its activities further to impart skill training under the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Mission in both technical skills and soft skills to the youth seeking employment abroad.**

Tamil Development and Culture

15) The Government has already sanctioned Rs.10 crore to institute a Tamil Chair in Harvard University. **To preserve and propagate Tamil language and culture internationally, the**

Tamil Language Propagation Centre will be established at Tamil University, Thanjavur for which Rs.2 crore will be provided as annual grant. Similarly, the Tamil Cultural Centre will also be established with an annual grant of Rs.1 crore. The monthly assistance to the artists in indigent circumstances will be raised from Rs.1,500/- to Rs.2,000/-. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.52.56 crore has been allocated for Tamil Development Department.

16) **The Government is celebrating this year as 'Tamil Nadu Golden Jubilee Year' to commemorate the 50th year of the State's rechristening as 'Tamil Nadu' on 14th January, 1969.** As announced earlier in the Governor's address, a Grand Memorial will be built in commemoration of the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma at Marina at a cost of Rs.50.80 crore. In addition, a sum of Rs.20 crore has been allocated to convert 'Vedha Nilayam', the residence of the late Chief Minister, as a Memorial. The Centenary Celebrations of Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. were held in 30 Districts and as a culmination to these celebrations, a grand function will be held at Chennai.

Law and Order

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

17) The State Government has been maintaining public order effectively, thus ensuring peace and tranquility in the State. The Government has taken up the construction of buildings for the Police Department for various purposes including Police Stations at a cost of Rs.671 crore and quarters at a cost of Rs.1,659 crore since 2011. **During 2018-2019, buildings for another 15 Police Stations and 543 residential quarters will be constructed besides taking up the construction of 35 structures for various purposes at a total estimated cost of Rs.217.41 crore.**

18) The State Police has been adequately staffed by regularly recruiting personnel and has also been equipped with vehicles and modern equipment to tackle law and order situations and crime. Under the 'Modernisation of Police Force', the Government has sanctioned additional vehicles and modern equipment for surveillance and communication at a cost of Rs.98.18 crore in 2017-2018. **The number of Chief Minister's Constabulary Medals will be increased from 1,500 to 3,000 from 2018-2019 onwards. Further, one cyber crime police station will be established in all Districts and Commissionerates at a total cost of Rs.23.28 crore. In the Budget Estimates, Rs.7,877.58 crore has been allocated for the Police Department.**

Fire and Rescue Services

19) The Government has been continuously modernizing the Fire and Rescue Services Department by inducting modern equipment. **In the ensuing financial year, buildings for fire stations will be taken up for construction at 20 locations at a cost of Rs.28.23 crore. Further, quarters will also be built at a cost of Rs.18.51 crore in Manali.** In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.347.59 crore has been allocated to the Fire and Rescue Services Department.

Prisons

20) Prisons act as corrective institutions that provide the necessary environment for prisoners to reform themselves and to facilitate their integration into the society by providing them requisite skills through production centres. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.306.80 crore has been allocated for the Prisons Department.

Administration of Justice

21) To facilitate better delivery of justice, the Government has sanctioned Rs.1,382.76 crore since 2011, for the constitution of new courts and construction of new buildings and for providing additional staff for the newly constituted courts. Further, to enhance the efficiency of courts, digitization of court records has been taken up at a cost of Rs.37 crore. In the Budget Estimates, Rs.1,197.95 crore has been allocated for the Administration of Justice and Rs.182.44 crore for construction of court buildings.

Governance

22) There are 10,420 e-Sevai centres functioning across the State providing 207 public services. In 2017-2018, these e-Sevai centres have handled 1.69 crore transactions so far and have truly evolved into 'one stop solution centres' for all public services offered by the Government. This Government will also bring more than 900 services online on a single e-platform along with a mobile version within a period of three years. **An integrated 'Tamil Nadu Makkal Portal' will be launched which will serve as a one-stop gateway for the public to access and update data related to them.** The Government will introduce the 'Tamil Nadu State Aadhaar Bill' in this Budget session which will ensure prompt and timely delivery of public services. The e Governance policy has already been released by the Government. **A Government wide Architecture for e-Governance will be conceptualised and put in place.**

Revenue Administration

23) Since May 2011, 71 new Taluks and 9 new revenue divisions have been created in the State to improve the accessibility for people and enhance the service delivery of the Revenue Department. The Government has been continuously strengthening the infrastructure of this department by constructing new buildings for Taluk, Divisional and Collectors' Offices. In 2018-2019, the Government will take up the construction of new buildings for 3 Taluk offices and one Revenue Divisional office at a cost of Rs.22.40 crore.

24) In 2017-2018, 3.80 lakh free house site pattas have been distributed so far through Revenue Department and for the year 2018-2019, the Government has fixed a target of issuing 3 lakh free house site pattas to poor families. **As a new initiative to provide decent housing to poor people living in objectionable poramboke lands like watercourses and to restore these lands to their original purpose, the Government will acquire private lands through Revenue department in the respective villages and will issue free house site pattas to rehabilitate the displaced poor families. These families will also be covered under the regular housing programmes of the Rural Development Department.**

25) Amma Thittam is effectively redressing the grievances of the public by taking the Government services to their doorsteps. Under the 'Uzhavar Padhukappu Thittam', 3.67 lakh beneficiaries have benefitted during 2017-2018 and Rs.248.48 crore has been distributed to them. An amount of Rs.269.82 crore has been provided in this Budget for this scheme. An amount of Rs.80 crore is allocated for the Accident Relief Scheme and Rs.18.37 crore for the Distress Relief Scheme. **In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.6,144.58 crore has been allocated for the Revenue Department.**

Agriculture

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

26) Agriculture being the primary occupation of substantial population of the State, this Government is taking concerted efforts to enhance farmers' income and farm productivity. The Food Grain Mission was launched in the State in 2012-2013 to increase food grain production by adopting modern technologies. The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) will be promoted in 10 lakh hectares during 2018-2019. The State procures paddy at the rate of Rs.1,600 per quintal for the common variety and Rs.1,660 per quintal for the fine variety. A sum of Rs.200 crore will be provided as production incentive to cover the difference between Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement price of paddy during 2018-2019. During 2017-2018, Intensive Pulses Production Programme has been promoted through village clusters and 85,000 hectare was additionally brought under pulses cultivation. In 2018-2019, multi-pronged initiatives will be taken to increase the productivity of pulses. **In order to sustain pulses production, like procuring paddy, this Government will directly procure red gram, black gram and green gram, from 2018-2019 directly from farmers through Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation at Minimum Support Price. The State Government has fixed a target of 110 lakh metric tonnes of food grain production for the year 2018-2019.**

27) The Government is giving utmost priority to promote horticultural crops for diversifying crop husbandry and improving farmers' income. **The State Government has taken a pioneering initiative for improving the Supply Chain Management for perishables in ten Districts at a cost of Rs.398.75 crore. This programme aims at strengthening 487 collection centres with 58 Primary Processing Centres covering 3,400 farming clusters. This scheme also covers on-farm development to increase the production and productivity of horticultural crops.** So far, Rs.123 crore has been spent under this scheme and Rs.175.75 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019.

28) A strong and dynamic food processing sector plays a vital role in reducing wastage in the farm sector and enhancing value addition. **With the aim of creating a conducive environment for the healthy growth of the food processing industry, an exclusive Food Processing Policy will be unveiled in 2018-2019. Contract Farming Act will**

be enacted soon to sustain agricultural production and promote agro processing industries. Further, as a major initiative, it is proposed to set up an Ultra Mega Food Park on an extent of about 450 acres at Pelakuppam village near Tindivanam. In addition, Mega Food Parks will be set up in Theni, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi, Erode, Cuddalore, Salem, Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Tiruvannamalai and Krishnagiri Districts. These composite parks will evolve as hubs for food processing in fruits and vegetables, fisheries, dairy, poultry and meat by encouraging private investment and are expected to generate substantial employment in rural areas.

29) The Sugar industry is cyclical in nature and is currently going through an extended phase of distress due to various factors like failure of monsoons, varietal degeneration, reduced recovery, decline in area under sugarcane and the resultant reduction in capacity utilization. This has, in turn, affected timely payments to farmers. While the major States like Maharashtra and Karnataka have migrated to a more progressive revenue sharing price fixation formula based on Dr.Rangarajan Committee's recommendations, our State continues to fix State Advisory Price (SAP) over and above the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP). **To resolve this issue, the State has decided to switch over to the revenue sharing price fixation model from the current season under which farmers will be assured of FRP and will also receive a share in the profits over and above the FRP. In order to facilitate this transition, the State Government will protect the interests of farmers, by assuring them of the present SAP of Rs.2,750 per metric tonne excluding transportation cost of Rs.100/-, by paying the difference between the present SAP and the price received under a new revenue sharing formula as transitional production incentive directly to the farmers. The sugar industries shall however continue to bear the transportation costs. An amount of Rs.200 crore is provided in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 towards the transitional production incentive. In 2018-2019, a special scheme will be formulated and implemented, in consultation with sugar mills, to cover 55,000 acres by adopting Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative to improve sugarcane productivity and sugar recovery.**

30) This Government has launched the Mission on Sustainable Dry Land Agriculture in 2016-2017 for the development of 10 lakh hectares of dryland in 25 Districts on cluster basis. Along with 400 clusters already formed during 2017-2018 at a cost of Rs.175.16 crore, **another 400 new clusters will be formed during 2018-2019 with a total outlay of Rs.321.16 crore. 'Collective Farming' programme was launched by this Government in 2017-2018 for promoting the functional consolidation of holdings through collective farming operations by Farmers Interest Groups and Farmer Producer Companies. Since there are 391 Farmer Producer Companies already functioning in Tamil Nadu, this Government will promote 2,000 new Farmer Producer Groups covering two lakh small and marginal farmers at a cost of Rs.100.42 crore during 2018-2019.**

Of these, 500 groups will eventually be upgraded to 50 Farmer Producer Companies with financial support of Rs.10 crore. As yet another innovative initiative, this Government will launch 'Integrated Farming System' during 2018-2019 for promoting mixed farming practices by integrating farming with allied sector activities like animal husbandry, agro forestry and aqua culture. It is proposed to implement this programme on a pilot basis in five blocks, each covering 1,000 farmers. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and Tamil Nadu University for Veterinary & Animal Sciences (TANUVAS) will be the resource organizations to support this novel initiative. I hope that this initiative will help farmers to return to their traditional practice of sustainable farming. This scheme will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.50 crore.

31) Mitigation of weather risk through crop insurance is a priority of this Government. During 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.565 crore has been released under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to insurance companies as State's share of premium subsidy and so far an amount of Rs.3,113 crore has been sanctioned as compensation claims to 10.15 lakh farmers. A sum of Rs.523 crore was provided as premium for the year 2017-2018. **During 2018-2019, steps will be taken to introduce computerization of the process of crop insurance for better transparency in the enrolment of farmers for crop insurance. An amount of Rs.632 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 towards the State's share of premium subsidy under this scheme.**

32) Farm mechanization and market integration continue to be the main planks of our agricultural strategy. This Government has promoted 1,106 Custom Hiring Centres for farm machinery since 2014-2015. **Another 500 centres will be supported in 2018-2019.** During 2017-2018, Rs.71 crore was provided for promoting farm mechanization. **For the year 2018-2019, Rs.150 crore has been provided for farm machinery.** Initially, e-trading was introduced for turmeric in the Perundurai Regulated Market of Erode District using Unified Market Platform. **Further e-trading facilities will be extended to 30 regulated markets and 8 Co-operative Markets by integrating with e-National Agriculture Markets (eNAM). The Market infrastructure in these 38 markets will be strengthened at an outlay of Rs.159 crore**.

33) Tamil Nadu being a water scarce State, micro irrigation needs to be promoted extensively for both the agricultural and horticultural crops. **In 2017-2018, Rs.622 crore was provided for promoting Micro Irrigation. For the year 2018-2019, an amount of Rs.715 crore is provided for this purpose. Considering the importance of farm ponds in providing life saving irrigation to crops at the tail end of Cauvery Delta and coastal areas, the Government will take up 10,000 more farm ponds at a cost of Rs.100 crore.**

34) This Government will also take up the following initiatives:

- **Tamil Nadu Cotton Cultivation Mission will be continued with an outlay of Rs.10.62 crore.**
- **An exclusive mobile application 'Uzhavan' will be launched for the use of farmers.**
- **A new 'Amma Green Park' will be developed at Guindy at a cost of Rs.20 crore.**
- **A new flower market complex will be developed at Hosur, Krishnagiri District.**
- **A maize processing unit will be set up at Mangalur, Cuddalore District.**
- **A post harvest processing unit for flowers will be established at Thovalai.**

35) **Overall for the agricultural sector, a sum of Rs.8,916.25 crore is allocated in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019.**

Animal Husbandry

36) This Government will continue to implement the scheme of distribution of milch cows, sheep or goats free of cost. Since 2011, 75,398 poor women have been provided with one milch cow each and 8.71 lakh poor families have been provided with 34.85 lakh sheep or goats. In 2018-2019, it is proposed to distribute 12,000 milch cows and 6 lakh sheep or goats to 1.5 lakh beneficiaries under this scheme and for this purpose, Rs.248.58 crore has been provided in this budget. In addition, Rs.50 crore has been allocated in the budget for poultry development and Rs.25 crore has been allocated for the Fodder Development schemes.

37) The Government has immensely improved the quality and availability of veterinary services that form the backbone of the Animal Husbandry sector in rural areas. **During 2018-2019, we propose to upgrade 100 sub-centres to Veterinary Dispensaries. Further, the Institute of Veterinary Preventive Medicine at Ranipet will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.10 crore.**

38) The dairy processing infrastructure of Aavin has been continuously strengthened and as a result, the average milk processing capacity of Aavin has increased from 32.57 lakh litres per day in 2011 to 43.36 lakh litres per day in 2017. The average per day milk procurement has also gone up from 21.37 lakh litres in 2011 to 29.64 lakh litres in 2017. Aavin is actively pursuing diversification of products and is thus working on value-addition activities. To give greater impetus to the dairy sector in the State, **dairy infrastructure will be augmented with loan support of Rs.500 crore from NABARD's Dairy Development Fund. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.1,227.69 crore and Rs.130.82 crore have been allocated for the Animal Husbandry and Dairy sectors respectively.**

Fisheries

39) The Government will continue to provide Rs.5,000 per family during the lean fishing season and Rs.5,000 per family during the fishing ban period to enable them to live with dignity. To augment fisheries infrastructure, new fishing harbours at Colachel, Thengapattinam and Chinna Muttam in Kanniyakumari District and Poompuhar in Nagapattinam District are being constructed

at an estimated cost of Rs.423.34 crore. As the Central Government has not released its remaining share, the State Government has borne the balance amount of Rs.41.65 crore in addition to its share of Rs.182 crore so that these projects could be completed. Further, construction of the Mookaiyur Fishing Harbour at Ramanathapuram at a cost of Rs.113.90 crore is also in progress. **This Government will undertake the construction of fish landing centre at Kunthukal in Ramanathapuram District at a cost of Rs.70 crore and fishing harbours at Vellapallam and Tarangambadi in Nagapattinam District at a total cost of Rs.220 crore in the coming financial year. In 2018-2019, the Government will also take up the construction of fish landing centres at four locations, namely Kurumpanai, Pozhikarai, Kesavanputhenthurai and Pallam Thurai in Kanniyakumari District at a total cost of Rs.16 crore.**

40) The seamless communication project has been taken up at a cost of Rs.62.14 crore with World Bank assistance in 13 coastal Districts. Under this project, VHF wireless sets are being distributed to traditional fishing boats and mechanized fishing vessels. This will establish seamless communication upto 60 nautical miles and will be operational before June 2018. **As a major step towards ensuring security of our fishermen sailing in deep sea in multi-day fishing vessels, beyond 60 nautical miles, the Government will provide high frequency communication sets at subsidized cost in a phased manner.** In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, an amount of Rs.1,016.53 crore has been allocated for the Fisheries Department.

Co-operation

41) Hon'ble Members may recall that the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had announced the waiver of all outstanding short-term crop loans, medium term (agriculture) loans and long term farm sector loans extended by co-operative institutions to small and marginal farmers. The total financial commitment of the State Government spread over five years is Rs.6,094.89 crore. Of this, Rs.3,664.76 crore has already been paid and an amount of Rs.883.71 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019. **In the ensuing financial year, fresh crop loans to the tune of Rs.8,000 crore will be extended to farmers through co-operative institutions.**

Public Distribution System

42) Despite adopting the National Food Security Act, 2013 with effect from 1st November 2016, the Government has retained the universal nature of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Tamil Nadu. This has ensured a food safety net by supplying rice free of cost to Rs.1.83 crore rice cardholders through 34,773 PDS shops. The State will continue to supply sugar, kerosene, toor / yellow lentil and edible oil at subsidized rates through PDS shops, besides supplying rice free of cost. To improve transparency in operations of the PDS and to plug leakages, the Government has issued Aadhaar linked smart cards to all families. **The Government has increased the allocations to co-operatives for reimbursing the loss incurred by**

rural and urban fair price shops from Rs.222.93 crore in the Budget Estimates 2017-2018 to Rs.437.69 crore in the Revised Estimates and further to Rs.460.17 crore in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019. Besides this, an amount of Rs.6,000 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 for food subsidy.

Environment and Forests

43) The State Government is undertaking various activities at a cost of Rs.686 crore under the 'Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project' for conserving biodiversity and uplifting the people living in villages on the fringes of forests. So far, Rs.469.40 crore has been spent for activities and Rs.86.57 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019. **In commemoration of the 70th Birth Anniversary of the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the massive tree plantation scheme was launched on 24.02.2018 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Under this scheme, the Government will take up tree plantation in 7,000 acres in degraded forest areas to rejuvenate tree cover and convert them into dense forests as part of the Massive Tree Plantation Programme. This project will be taken up at a cost of Rs.21.43 crore in 2018-2019. Besides, tree plantation activities in Government lands and tank bunds will be continued using MGNREGS funds.**

44) **Under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change, in anticipation of funding from the Government of India, the Government will commence the eco-restoration of 695 hectares of Pallikaranai marsh lands which will be implemented over five years from 2018-2019 to 2022-2023 at a project cost of Rs.165.68 crore.** In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.25 crore has been allocated for this project. A sum of Rs.649.34 crore has been allocated for the Environment and Forests Department.

Water Resources and Irrigation

45) This Government has revived the traditional practice of 'Kudimaramath' in mission mode since 2016-2017 with the aim of rejuvenating water bodies in the State. **An amount of Rs. 300 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 for Kudimaramath.** Hon'ble members may recall that the Hon'ble Chief Minister had earlier announced in this august House that the construction of check dams would be taken up at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore for improving groundwater recharge in the State. In 2017-2018, the Government has taken up the construction of check dams at a cost of Rs.200 crore with NABARD's loan assistance. **This Government will take up the construction of check dams at an estimate of Rs.250 crore during 2018-2019 with RIDF assistance from NABARD.**

46) With the aim of rehabilitating tanks and increasing groundwater recharge, this Government has taken up the second phase of the Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water-bodies Restoration and Management (IAMWARM) project with the financial assistance of the World Bank at the project cost of Rs.3,008 crore. Under this project,

66 sub-basins in 29 Districts are being covered to rehabilitate 4,778 tanks and 477 anaicuts, thereby benefiting 5.43 lakh hectares of ayacut lands. In the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019, an amount of Rs.655.29 crore has been allocated for the second phase of the IAMWARM project.

47) The 'Climate Change Adaptation Programme' is being implemented at a cost of Rs.960.66 crore with financial aid from the Asian Development Bank. This programme aims to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change in the Vennar sub-basin of the Cauvery delta and improve the drainage systems. So far, Rs.215.84 crore has been spent for this project, and Rs.437.41 crore has been allocated in the Budget 2018-2019 for this project.

48) The World Bank funded 'Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project' (DRIP) is under implementation in 89 dams in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs.745.49 crore. So far, works in 63 dams have been completed and works in 23 dams are under progress and expenditure of Rs.362.02 crore has been incurred. In the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019, Rs.166.08 crore has been allotted for the project.

49) **I am happy to inform this august House that 'Athikadavu – Avinashi drinking water supply-cum-irrigation scheme' will be sanctioned shortly at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,789 crore. This project will pump and lift 1.5 TMC feet of surplus water from downstream of Kalingarayan anaicut to fill 32 PWD Tanks, 42 Panchayat Union tanks and 971 ponds in Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode Districts. In the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019, Rs.250 crore has been allocated for the Athikadavu-Avinashi project.** As part of the intra-State river linkage project, the Government has spent a sum of Rs.349.36 crore so far, for linking Thamirabarani river with Nambiyar river and Rs.100.88 crore has been allocated for this project in this Budget.

50) The Government has been continuously taking legal action in securing the legitimate rights of Tamil Nadu in inter-State river water disputes. This State Government has been continuously urging the Government of India to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee within six weeks as per the orders of the Supreme Court. I am sure that the Government of India will implement the orders of the Supreme Court in true spirit.

51) In the Budget Estimates of 2018-2019, Rs.5,127.57 crore has been allocated for the Water Resources Department.

Highways

52) Following the announcement made in 2011-2012 to widen all State Highways to at least two lanes and all Major District Roads (MDR) to at least intermediate lane width, the length of the State Highways with at least two lanes has been increased from 9,566 km in 2011 to 11,412 km in 2017 and that of Major District Roads (MDR) with intermediate lane has increased from 7,613 km in 2011 to 11,219 km in 2017. **The remaining 54 km of State Highways and 34 km of MDRs will be taken up for widening at a cost of Rs.80 crore in the ensuing financial year to fulfill this objective.**

53) **Under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP), widening of 1,000 km of roads and improvement of 4,000 km of roads will be taken up in 2018-2019.** The Government has already brought the upgradation and maintenance of roads in Pollachi, Krishnagiri, Ramanathapuram, Tiruvallur and Virudhunagar divisions under the 'Performance Based Maintenance Contract' (PBMC) system. **In 2018-2019, the PBMC system will be extended to Palani Division. Allocation under CRIDP has been substantially enhanced to Rs.3,800 crore in the Budget Estimates, considering the need for improving the quality of roads, by taking up renewal at regular intervals.** In addition, an amount of Rs.544 crore has been allocated for regular maintenance of roads in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019.

54) The Government has taken up works for upgrading 1,435.96 km of Panchayat Union Roads and Panchayat Roads at a cost of Rs.608 crore in 2017-2018 under the 'Programme for upgradation of rural roads'. **In 2018-2019, another 2,500 km length of roads will be taken up at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore. For this programme, Rs.675 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates.**

55) The second phase of the Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project (TNRSP) has been taken up with the loan assistance of the World Bank at a cost of Rs.5,171 crore and the works are in progress. In 2017-2018, this Government has taken up strengthening and widening of the 45 km stretch in Tirunelveli-Senkottai-Kollam road at a cost of Rs. 413 crore and four laning of 71 km stretch in Oddanchathiram-Dharapuram-Avinashi at a cost of Rs.712 crore in Public-Private Partnership mode. An amount of Rs.482.84 crore has been allocated for the TNRSP in this Budget.

56) The Chennai-Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC), part of the East Coast Economic Corridor, has been envisaged to develop the coastal areas and the ports along the coast of Tamil Nadu. The Detailed Project Report for developing 14 roads with a length of 654.54 km at a cost of Rs.6,448.24 crore has been prepared as part of this corridor and is under the consideration of the Government of India for ADB's loan assistance. **The Government of India has approved the revised Detailed Project Report for the Chennai Peripheral Ring Road project at a cost of Rs.12,301 crore for funding from JICA.** Works for section-I of the proposed Chennai Peripheral Ring Road, namely the Northern Port Access Road from Ennore Port to Thatchur on NH-5 will commence shortly. An amount of Rs.200.60 crore has been allocated for this project in the Budget.

57) Under the Railway Works programme, this Government has taken up 60 Road Over Bridges (ROBs) since 2011 at a cost of Rs.1,436.66 crore and will undertake the construction of 6 ROBs in 2018-2019 at a cost of Rs.184 crore. During 2017-2018, 126 bridges at a cost of Rs.315 crore have been taken up with NABARD's assistance. In 2018-2019, the Government will take up 70 more bridges

at an estimated cost of Rs.200 crore under the RIDF programme. **In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.11,073.66 crore has been provided for the Highways Department, which includes Rs.513.66 crore for the Railway Works programme and Rs.250 crore for the NABARD programme.**

Energy

58) It was the visionary and firm leadership of the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma that brought about a transformation in the State's power sector. The Government has added 10,777 MW of power generation capacity since 2011, which has made it possible to meet even the peak demand of 15,343 MW in the month of April 2016. The Government is taking persistent efforts to expedite the commissioning of ongoing power projects to meet the growing demand for power in the State. Works are in progress in the ongoing thermal power projects like 660 MW Ennore Expansion project, two units of 660 MW each in Ennore SEZ Project, 800 MW North Chennai Project Stage-III, two units of 800 MW each in Uppur Project and two units of 660 MW each in Stage-I in Udangudi Project.

59) This Government is steadfast in its efforts to tap the full potential of the State in the renewable energy sector and is continuously pursuing with the Union Government for the development of a dedicated Inter-State Green Energy Corridor to transmit surplus wind energy to energy deficit states. **Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of India's Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL). This step is expected to expedite the investment to the tune of Rs.11,000 crore in the renewable energy sector over the next three years.**

60) The 'Green Energy Corridor Project' is being actively implemented in the State with the aid of KfW at an estimated cost of Rs.1,593 crore, of which Rs.725 crore has already been spent. The 'Tamil Nadu Transmission System Improvement Project' is being implemented at a cost of Rs.5,014 crore with the assistance of JICA for upgrading the transmission capacity of the State. Allocation of Rs.258.21 crore and Rs.673 crore have been made in this Budget for these two projects respectively.

61) The takeover of Rs.22,815 crore debt from TANGEDCO in 2016-2017 under the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) by the Government has improved the financial position of TANGEDCO. The net loss of TANGEDCO is estimated to reduce from Rs.4,349 crore in 2016-2017 to Rs.2,975 crore in 2017-2018. For honouring the interest commitment of the State Government, Rs.1,779.42 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 and Rs.4,563 crore has been provided as grants for adjusting the loans given to TANGEDCO. As part of the UDAY scheme, the Government has to takeover 10 per cent of the losses suffered by TANGEDCO in 2017-2018 in the ensuing financial year, Rs.297.50 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 for this purpose. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, an amount of

Rs.13,964.08 crore has been provided for the Energy sector, which includes Rs.7,537.78 crore as power subsidy for agriculture and other purposes.

Transport

62) This Government is committed to providing efficient and effective public bus transport system as it is the main mode of transport for the public. The general price rise and the increase in salary costs has adversely affected the operations of the State Transport Undertakings (STUs). In 2017-2018, the State Government released Rs.2,519.25 crore as special ways and means advance to the STUs to tide over the severely stressed financial position and settle the retirement benefit dues to pensioners, pending dues to existing employees and compensation dues to victims of road accidents. This was in addition to Rs.1,364.12 crore that was released as diesel subsidy, senior citizen subsidy, student concession subsidy and share capital assistance which were provided in the Budget Estimates 2017-2018. **Further, the existing Government debt to the extent of Rs.3,001.47 crore of the STUs will be converted into share capital assistance in the financial year 2017-2018.**

63) **In 2018-2019, the State Government will infuse share capital of Rs.600 crore into the STUs for purchasing and inducting 3,000 new buses. With 2,000 new buses sanctioned during 2017-2018 and with these 3,000 new buses, we will be replacing all 4,593 old buses that have been in use for more than 10 years.** As a one-time measure, the Government is providing a ways and means advance of Rs.900 crore in this Budget to the STUs to settle their pending liabilities to financial institutions and staff commitments. An amount of Rs.2,717.34 crore has been allocated for the Transport Department, which includes Rs.799.25 crore as subsidy for free bus passes to students and senior citizens.

Chennai Metro Rail Project

64) Chennai Metro Rail project has brought about a massive transformation in urban transportation in Chennai. As against the project cost of Rs.22,828 crore including Thiruvottriyur extension, expenditure to the tune of Rs.16,258.45 crore has been incurred so far. Considering its success, three metro rail corridors covering a total distance of 107.55 km under Phase-II of the Project have been proposed by the State Government to the Government of India for its approval and for posing the same to JICA for funding. I am hopeful that the Central Government would accord approval to the Phase-II of the Chennai Metro Rail project early. The State Government has also initiated the process for preparation of Feasibility cum Detailed Project Report for the Metro Rail project in Coimbatore city. In the Budget Estimates, Rs.750 crore and Rs.1,000 crore have been allocated to provide share capital assistance and subordinate debt respectively for the Chennai Metro Rail project.

Tourism

65) The efforts taken by the State Government have ensured that Tamil Nadu retained its top position in the Country in 2016 also in attracting domestic tourists for the fourth consecutive year and international tourists for

the third consecutive year. The first phase of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Investment Programme for Tourism has been completed with the loan assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB). Initial preparatory works are underway for implementing the second phase of this project. In this phase, 14 packages have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.288 crore and works will commence in 2018-2019. An amount of Rs.173.42 crore is provided in the Budget Estimates for Tourism Development.

Information Technology

66) The State Government has established 8 IT Parks in Tamil Nadu, of which new IT parks at Salem and Hosur were inaugurated recently by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. For providing reliable and high-speed connectivity to the people living in rural areas, this Government will implement the Bharat Net Scheme to connect the villages with block headquarters through optical fibre network at an estimated cost of Rs.1,230 crore through Tamil Nadu Fibre Net Corporation. Similarly, the State headquarters will be connected with District headquarters and block headquarters through optical fibre network under the Tamilnet project in PPP mode. **TNSWAN Phase III project will be commenced soon at an estimate of Rs.443.64 crore to strengthen the IT network from State Headquarters to blocks. An amount of Rs.158.11 crore is allocated for IT Sector in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019.**

Industrial Development

67) Tamil Nadu has always been at the forefront in industrial growth in the Country. It is the priority of the Government to retain the State as a top investment destination by creating favourable eco-system to attract new investments and create new jobs. As a major structural reform initiative, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has launched a single-window portal, which will enable investors to obtain the required clearances and renewals across 11 Departments. The State has also enacted the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, 2018, to strengthen the single-window system by stipulating timelines for each approval and providing for deemed approval in respect of certain clearances. Concerted efforts are being taken to improve the ranking of the State on the ease of doing business index.

68) SIPCOT has already created a land bank of 5,023 acres to promote new industrial units. It will develop additional land bank of 9,030 acres to allot sufficient land to new investors. A special focus will be given for the development of industries in the southern parts of Tamil Nadu, especially along the Chennai-Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor and the Madurai-Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor. Several initiatives have been taken by this Government to promote industrial investment like Aero Space Park at Vallam Vadagal in Kancheepuram District, TICEL Bio-Park at Coimbatore, Plastic Industrial Park at Ponneri and Medi Park at Chengalpattu. **Capitalizing on the well developed automobile sector, the Government will give a special emphasis to establish Aero Space Park and defense manufacturing corridor which is expected to attract Rs.10,000 crore investment**.

69) The first Global Investors Meet was successfully conducted in September 2015 under the leadership of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. As against the total investment of Rs.2.42 lakh crore, for which 98 MoUs were signed, 62 projects are under implementation with a total investment of Rs.62,738 crore generating 96,341 jobs. **The State Government has proposed to conduct the second Global Investors Meet on 23rd and 24th January 2019.** The Government will continue the policy of extending structured package assistance for large investments. The package of assistance will be decided on a case by case basis depending upon the investment level, generation of employment opportunities and the potential to create ancillary and down-stream industries. **During 2017-2018, the State Government has disbursed Rs.1,600 crore as investment subsidy and this has been enhanced to Rs.2,000 crore for the year 2018-2019.**

"Tamil Nadu has always been at the forefront in industrial growth in the Country. It is the priority of the Government to retain the State as a top investment destination by creating favourable eco-system to attract new investments and create new jobs".

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

70) There are 17.20 lakh registered Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) units in Tamil Nadu. During the Global Investors Meet held in 2015, 10,073 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed with investors to start MSME units with an investment of Rs.16,533 crore. Out of these, 5,544 enterprises with an investment of Rs.6,280 crore have commenced their production, creating an employment for 72,939 persons. **For constructing MSME units, plot coverage will be increased uniformly to 75 per cent across the State and the Floor Space Index will be appropriately increased to facilitate optimum use of the allotted space. SIDCO will construct multi-storeyed worksheds for micro units at a cost of Rs.30 crore in Ambattur industrial estate. In necessary places, workers' hostels will be constructed by SIDCO to provide accommodation at affordable cost to MSME workers and will be run on PPP mode.**

71) The Government has created and established 105 industrial estates for motivating the MSME sector. The Government's pro-active measures to establish new industrial estates to promote MSMEs will continue. The Single Window Portal, now available to large industries is being customized for the MSMEs and will be launched shortly. The Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act and the Single Window Portal will complement each other and promote further development of the MSME sector. **Further, the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act will be suitably amended to make 25 per cent purchase preference to MSME mandatory in the procurement by Government and State Public Sector Undertakings.**

72) This Government's flagship scheme, the 'New Entrepreneurship-cum-Enterprise Development Scheme' (NEEDS), is a unique programme for promoting first generation entrepreneurs and since its inception in 2011, about 4,190 first generation entrepreneurs have benefitted. **Under this scheme, the ceiling limit for loan will be enhanced from Rs.1 crore to Rs.5 crore. However, the ceiling limit for subsidy will continue to be Rs.25 lakh.** In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.100 crore has been provided for this scheme and Rs.540.66 crore has been provided for the MSME sector.

Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi

73) A sum of Rs.490.45 crore has been provided for implementation of the scheme of 'Free Distribution of Sarees and Dhoties' in 2018-2019 to ensure continuous employment to handloom weavers in the State. The Government of India has imposed severe restrictions in providing Marketing Incentive to co-operative societies under the Integrated Handloom Development scheme. These restrictions are bound to adversely impact the handloom sector and therefore to counteract this, the State Government will enhance the allocation for the Rebate scheme. **This Government will launch a new 'Handloom Support Programme' to provide financial assistance for innovation and diversification of products in the handloom sector. Budgetary allocation for the rebate on the sale of handloom cloth will be substantially increased from Rs.80 crore to Rs.150 crore and Rs.40 crore will be provided for the Handloom Support Programme. The Government will come up with a 'New Integrated Textile Policy' to sustain, strengthen and develop handloom, powerloom and knitwear and garment sectors. The policy will give special focus to sunrise sectors like technical textiles besides coming up with a comprehensive strategy to increase textile exports.**

74) The 'Market Development Assistance' scheme for promoting Khadi cloth produced by Sarvodaya Sangams will continue with an allocation of Rs.30 crore in the Budget 2018-2019. Allocation of Rs.1,240.72 crore for Handlooms and Textiles sectors and Rs.227.46 crore for Handicrafts and Khadi sectors have been provided in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019.

Rural Development

75) The State Government is committed to providing road connectivity and other basic amenities to all rural habitations. **At present, 16 tribal habitations having a population of more than 500 people that remain unconnected by all-weather roads will be provided with road connectivity during 2018-2019.** Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' (PMGSY), improvement of 573 roads of length 1,367 km and construction of 22 bridges have been taken up in 2017-2018 at a cost of Rs.758.44 crore. **The Government will take up the improvement of 769 roads of length 2,658.58 km and construction of 25 bridges at a cost of Rs.1,244.35 crore in 2018-2019 under the PMGSY.**

76) This Government has been implementing the 'Mahatma Gandhi National

Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' (MGNREGS) in letter and spirit and has been continuously appreciated by the Government of India for its good performance. In 2017-2018, so far, 22.77 crore person-days of employment has been generated and Rs.5,186.19 crore has been disbursed as wages to beneficiaries. Of these, 19.50 crore person-days have been on account of women participation. This has taken Tamil Nadu to the foremost position in the Country in terms of women's participation in MGNREGS. In 2018-2019, the Government estimates that Rs.5,200 crore will be directly received as grants from the Government of India and Rs.1,000 crore has been provided as State's share in the Budget.

77) Hon'ble Members may recall that this Government had enhanced the development fund under the 'Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme' (MLACDS) from Rs.2 crore to Rs.2.5 crore per MLA in 2017-2018. **In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, a sum of Rs.587.50 crore has been provided for the MLACDS and a total amount of Rs.17,869.93 crore has been allocated for the Rural Development Department.**

Municipal Administration

78) There is a growing demand for providing better amenities and upgrading infrastructure facilities in urban areas due to the increasing urbanisation in the State. **For providing basic amenities and upgrading urban infrastructure like roads, drinking water supply and sewerage facilities in the extended areas of Greater Chennai Corporation, the Government will re-launch the 'Chennai Mega City Development Mission' for which Rs.500 crore is being allocated in this Budget for 2018-2019. Similarly, for improving urban infrastructure facilities of Towns and cities, which are not covered under the 'Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation' (AMRUT) scheme, this Government have decided to re-launch the 'Integrated Urban Development Mission' (IUDM) from 2018-2019 and Rs.750 crore is allocated in this Budget for this purpose.**

79) Under the Government of India's 'Smart Cities Mission', the Union Government has included the cities of Erode, Tiruppur, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Tiruchirappalli in 2017-2018. With this inclusion, 11 cities of Tamil Nadu are now being funded under the Smart Cities Mission. Under this scheme, 198 projects have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.15,213 crore, and works in 33 projects are under execution. The Central Government has released Rs.828 crore so far and the State's share of Rs.840 crore has also been released. In the Budget Estimates, Rs.1,400 crore has been provided for the Smart Cities scheme.

80) Under AMRUT scheme, 28 urban local bodies have been selected. So far, approval has been accorded for 428 infrastructure development works to be taken up in 28 Towns at an estimated cost of Rs.11,498.41 crore. A sum of Rs.1,468.28 crore has been released including State's share, to the local bodies under this scheme. An amount of Rs.1,200 crore has been allocated for the AMRUT scheme in this Budget.

81) **The State will also be implementing the 'Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Programme' (TNUFIP) with the assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) at an estimated cost of Rs.4,790 crore for supporting urban local bodies to meet their financial commitments under the AMRUT scheme.** The programme is expected to be approved by ADB soon. The State has been implementing the World Bank assisted 'Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Programme' (TNSUDP) since 2015 at a project cost of Rs.3,831 crore. Under this scheme, Rs.854.59 crore has been spent in 13 urban local bodies so far. In the Budget Estimates of 2018-2019, Rs.712.70 crore has been allocated for TNSUDP. **The Government will also take up the upgradation of 400 km length of roads at an estimated cost of Rs.200 crore in Town Panchayats with NABARD funding in 2018-2019.**

82) The Government has also been constructing underground sewerage systems (UGSS) in urban and peri-urban areas through TWAD Board and the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB). Consequently, 8 Corporations, 27 Municipalities and 3 Town Panchayats have functional UGSS at present. UGSS works are under progress in 11 Corporations, 21 Municipalities and 6 Town Panchayats. Currently, 38 UGSS projects are under implementation at a cost of Rs.5,844.70 crore. Similarly, CMWSSB is currently executing 13 UGSS works in Chennai city at a cost of Rs.704.26 crore and will take up UGSS works in newly added areas of the Greater Chennai Corporation in 2018-2019 at a cost of Rs.614.84 crore.

83) In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.13,896.48 crore has been allocated for the Municipal Administration Department.

Water Supply

84) Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD) is currently implementing 55 water supply schemes at an estimated cost of Rs.4,466 crore covering 2 Corporations, 17 Municipalities, 49 Town Panchayats and 14,218 rural villages thus benefitting a population of 101.67 lakh. Water supply projects are under implementation in 27 added areas in Chennai at a cost of Rs.599.66 crore. Under AMRUT, 7 water supply schemes covering 5 Corporations and 2 Municipalities have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.1,823.60 crore benefiting a population of 23.17 lakh.

85) Despite the reduction in allocation by the Government of India for the 'National Rural Drinking Water Programme' (NRDWP), the State Government is implementing water supply projects with NABARD's loan assistance. During 2017-2018, works have been taken up for Rs.300 crore under the NRDWP, for Rs.186 crore under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and for Rs.600 crore under the NABARD's RIDF. **In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.300 crore, Rs.186 crore and Rs.600 crore have been allocated for the NRDWP, MNP and NABARD funded works respectively.**

86) **Totally, Rs.1,853.38 crore is provided in the Budget Estimates for provision of drinking water.**

Housing for the poor

87) This Government lives by the vision of the late Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma to create hut-free villages and slum-free cities in Tamil Nadu. This Government has sanctioned the construction of 1.30 lakh houses in 2017-2018 at a cost of Rs.2,276 crore, with part funding of Rs.975 crore from Government of India under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Gramin). **In 2018-2019, another 1.30 lakh houses will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.2,276 crore. Further, 20,000 houses will be taken up under the 'Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme' at a cost of Rs.420 crore. An amount of Rs.2,696.14 crore has been allocated for the rural housing schemes in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019.**

88) The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) has made an assessment that 13.92 lakh poor families living in urban areas would require housing before 2023. So far, construction of 4.25 lakh tenements and housing units has been taken up at a cost of Rs.16,776.04 crore under the 'Housing for All - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY–Urban)'. Of the total sanctioned cost, the Government of India's commitment is Rs.6,373.29 crore of which, Rs.1,497.97 crore has been released so far for this purpose. During 2018-2019, it is proposed to take up construction of 1 lakh more dwelling units. **A sum of Rs.2,301.30 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 for Housing for All – PMAY Urban.**

89) The Tamil Nadu Housing Board (TNHB) has completed the construction of 4,746 units in 2017-2018 at a cost of Rs.1,278.87 crore. **In 2018-2019, the TNHB will take up the construction of 20,095 housing units at an estimated cost of Rs.2,894.63 crore for Lower Income Groups (LIG) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).**

Mission for a clean Tamil Nadu

90) Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), this Government has so far completed the construction of 45.63 lakh individual toilets at a cost of Rs.4,975.52 crore. During 2017-2018, this Government has taken up construction of 19.42 lakh individual toilets at an estimate of Rs.2,528.54 crore. 17 Districts in the State have been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF), with every household having a functional toilet. Tamil Nadu will be declared as an Open Defecation Free State under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) by the end of the current financial year, 2017-2018. An allocation of Rs.1,074 crore is made for Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019.

91) The Government has assessed that 4.37 lakh individual toilets will have to be provided in Town Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporations in the State. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), 1.56 lakh individual toilets in 2016-2017 and 2.27 lakh toilets in 2017-2018 have been constructed and another 54,278 toilets are under construction. The Government of India has so far declared 11 Corporations, 93 Municipalities and 60 Town Panchayats as Open Defecation Free in this State. By October 2018, the targeted number of 4.37 lakh toilets will be built. An allocation of

Rs.550 crore is provided under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019.

Urban Development

92) The Government is keen to promote planned development of urban areas. In the first phase, the Government has completed the preparation of master plans for six planning areas viz., Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur and Hosur, covering 7,979 square km. The Government will now prepare regional plans for the whole State, dividing the State into 9 Zones. The regional plan for the Coimbatore region will be prepared with technical assistance from the German Government's GIZ agency and those for the Madurai, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli regions will be prepared with the assistance of ADB under the Chennai- Kanniyakumari Industrial corridor project.

Elections to Local Bodies

93) The elections to local bodies in the State have been delayed due to various litigations and also on account of the process of delimitation of territorial wards of local bodies being undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission, based on 2011 Census. After the completion of the delimitation process, the State Election Commission will be in a position to notify the elections to the local bodies. However, in the Budget Estimates, Rs.172.27 crore has been allocated for conducting the local body elections.

Devolution to Local Bodies

94) During 2018-2019, a sum of Rs.5,980.33 crore and Rs.4,834.75 crore will be devolved to the rural and urban local bodies respectively, as per the State Finance Commission's recommendations. Similarly, based on the Central Finance Commission's recommendations, Rs.1,975.07 crore and Rs.1,877.10 crore will be devolved to the rural and urban local bodies respectively.

Health and Family Welfare

95) Tamil Nadu has always been a forerunner in providing affordable and quality health care to its people by strengthening the physical infrastructure and providing adequate human resources at all three levels of public healthcare – primary, secondary and tertiary. Due to these concerted efforts, the major health indicators of the State have been steadily improving. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has been reduced to 17 in 2016 from 24 per 1,000 live births in 2010 and is now the second best in the Country. Against the national target for Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 109 per lakh live births, the State has already achieved MMR of 62 in the year 2016-2017 as per our State records. I am happy to note that institutional deliveries in Tamil Nadu have reached the level of 99 per cent.

96) The State's effective public healthcare system rests on the strong foundation of its dedicated doctors and trained medical personnel. **With the aim of further improving the availability of medical doctors, another 345 MBBS seats will be created in Government Medical Colleges at Tirunelveli, Madurai, Kanniyakumari and Coimbatore in the coming financial years.**

97) The 'Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme' (CMCHIS), a flagship programme of this Government has been able to provide state-of-the-art treatment to the needy in both Government and private hospitals. This initiative has enabled the State to achieve the goal of universal health care. This scheme will be suitably dovetailed with the National Health Protection Scheme under Ayushman Bharat programme that has been recently announced by the Government of India. An amount of Rs.1,361.60 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019 for the 'Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme'.

98) This Government has taken concerted efforts to systematically upgrade secondary and tertiary hospitals. To carry them forward,

- **Two Linear Accelerators, 6 CT Scans and 4 MRI Scans will be provided at a cost of Rs.66.50 crore to Government Medical College Hospitals and Government Hospitals.**
- **Accident and Trauma Care Centres will be established in Ponneri and Nazarethpettai at a total cost of Rs.24 crore.**
- **New Cobalt units for cancer therapy will be established in Government Medical College Hospitals at Villupuram, Dharmapuri, Thiruvannamalai and Pudukottai at a cost of Rs.34 crore and the existing Cobalt units will be replaced in 10 Government Medical College Hospitals at a cost of Rs.35 crore.**
- **Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) Centres at Government RSRM Hospital, Chennai, Thiruvarur Medical College, Kanniyakumari Medical College and Theni Medical College Hospitals will be upgraded at a total cost of Rs.48 crore.**
- **Maternal and Child Health wing will be established in 4 District Headquarters Hospitals at Virudhunagar, Kancheepuram, Thirupathur and Ramanathapuram at a total cost of Rs.80 crore.**
- **Another 6 Cath Labs will be sanctioned to the Government Medical College Hospitals at Villupuram, Dharmapuri, Kanniyakumari, Thoothukudi, Theni and Thiruvarur at a cost of Rs.21 crore for providing Cardiac and Neuro care services to the poor people.**

In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.1,551.22 crore has been allocated for the National Health Mission.

99) Under the 'Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme', aimed at reducing IMR and MMR, the State Government has already enhanced the assistance from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.18,000/- per beneficiary. **An amount of Rs.4,000/- from this assistance will be used for providing 'Amma Maternity Nutrition Kit', comprising iron tonic and nutrition supplements to reduce anaemia amongst pregnant women and improve the birth weights of infants.** In the Budget Estimates of 2018-2019, Rs.1,001.33 crore has been allocated for this flagship scheme. This Government will continue to implement the 'Amma Baby Care Kit' and the 'Amma

“Tamil Nadu has always been a forerunner in providing affordable and quality health care to its people by strengthening the physical infrastructure and providing adequate human resources at all three levels of public healthcare – primary, secondary and tertiary. Due to these concerted efforts, the major health indicators of the State have been steadily improving. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has been reduced to 17 in 2016 from 24 per 1,000 live births in 2010 and is now the second best in the Country”.

Magapperu Sanjeevi’ schemes. Besides, an amount of Rs.60.58 crore has been provided for the implementation of sanitary napkin distribution scheme under the Menstrual Hygiene Programme.

100) The State is preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for seeking World Bank’s loan assistance for the second phase of the ‘Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project’ with a project cost of Rs.2,685.91 crore for strengthening various public healthcare institutions in the State. This Government is also implementing the ‘Tamil Nadu Urban Health Care Project’ with JICA assistance at a cost of Rs.1,634 crore for improving the access for the poor and the disadvantaged to the Government health facilities in urban areas. The health infrastructure, including buildings and high-tech equipment in 11 Government Medical College Hospitals and 10 other District-level hospitals will be upgraded under this project. An amount of Rs.100 crore has been provided for this project in this Budget.

101) In this Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.11,638.44 crore is allocated for Health Department.

School Education

102) The Government is committed to improving the accessibility of schools for all children and the quality of education. In 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, this Government has opened 6 new primary schools and upgraded 4 primary schools into middle schools, 169 middle schools into high schools and 102 high schools into higher secondary schools. **In 2018-2019, this Government will upgrade 100 middle schools into high schools and 100 high schools into higher secondary schools. The Government has also identified 33,519 out-of-school children who will be brought under the mainstream education during 2018-2019.**

103) The school curriculum is being revised in consultation with various boards including the Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE) for tackling the growing challenges. This Government will refurbish the existing libraries in all high schools and higher secondary schools to inculcate reading habit among students. **In 2018-2019, this Government will take up strengthening of school infrastructure with NABARD’s loan assistance at a cost of Rs.200 crore and Rs.333.36 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019 for the development of school infrastructure.** For maintaining school toilets hygienically, local bodies have contributed

"The 'Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme' (CMCHIS), a flagship programme of this Government has been able to provide state-of-the-art treatment to the needy in both Government and private hospitals. This initiative has enabled the State to achieve the goal of universal health care".

Rs.54.50 crore in 2017-2018 and this scheme will continue in the ensuing financial year also.

104) With the noble intention of imparting quality education to all children, students are being provided four sets of uniforms, school bags, footwear, study materials including notebooks, textbooks and geometry boxes, cycles and bus passes free of cost. **In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.1,653.89 crore has been allocated for these welfare schemes.** As a measure to reduce drop-out rates in classes X, XI and XII, a special cash incentive of Rs.5,000/- is being extended to all students studying in Government and Government aided schools. An amount of Rs.313.58 crore has been allocated in this Budget for this purpose.

105) The Government has taken many initiatives to leverage technology for improving conceptual learning of students. Virtual Classrooms have been already established in 770 high and higher secondary schools. Smart classrooms are being provided to 3,000 primary and middle schools at a cost of Rs.60 crore. In this financial year, Hi-Tech labs with 10 to 20 computers are being set up in 3,090 High Schools and 2,939 Higher Secondary Schools at a cost of Rs.462.60 crore. This will ensure that every Government High and Higher Secondary school will have Hi-Tech Lab. **A sum of Rs.758 crore has been allocated in this Budget for providing laptops to school students during 2018-2019.**

106) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) are being successfully implemented by the State Government, despite the fact that the Government of India has not yet released the pending arrear claims of the previous years of Rs.1,312.04 crore and Rs.934.10 crore towards SSA and RMSA respectively. Allocations of Rs.1,750 crore and Rs.850 crore have been made for SSA and RMSA respectively in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019. For the effective implementation of the 'Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act', Rs.200.70 crore has been provided for 2018-2019.

107) **In the Budget Estimates of 2018-2019, Rs.27,205.88 crore has been allocated for School Education Department.**

Higher Education

108) The Government is committed in improving the accessibility, affordability and quality of higher education. The efforts taken by this Government to promote higher education in Tamil Nadu has enabled the State to achieve the numero uno status in the Country with the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education

at 46.90. In 2017-2018, this Government has sanctioned eight new Government Arts and Science Colleges, three new University constituent Arts and Science Colleges and one new Government Polytechnic College at a cost of Rs.186.87 crore. The Government has also introduced 271 new courses in Government Arts and Science Colleges and sanctioned 89 new courses to University constituent Colleges in 2017-2018. For strengthening the infrastructure of Government Arts and Science Colleges, this Government has taken up the construction of 862 classrooms and 172 laboratories at a cost of Rs.210 crore. **During the ensuing financial year, the heritage buildings at Government Arts and Science College in Kumbakonam, Victoria Hostel in Presidency College and Queen Mary's College in Chennai will be restored at a cost of Rs.26 crore.**

109) This Government is implementing the scheme of reimbursement of tuition fees to first generation graduate students to improve access to higher education for the educationally backward families. In 2017-2018, 2.17 lakh students have benefitted from this scheme and Rs.682.87 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019. **This Government has decided to revise the block grants from 2018-2019, to Universities which has not been revised for several years. The Government has allocated Rs.500.65 crore for providing grants to Universities, including Rs.250 crore for Annamalai University.** In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.4,620.20 crore has been allocated for the Higher Education Department.

Youth Welfare and Sports Development

110) In the current year, Rs.5.52 crore has been disbursed as incentive to the National and International award winners and their coaches. A Centre of Excellence in Sports Biomechanics is being established at a cost of Rs.13.12 crore in the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University. In the Budget Estimates of 2018-2019, Rs.191.18 crore has been allocated for the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department.

Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare

111) There are 1,324 Adi-Dravidar hostels with a strength of 98,539 students, 42 Tribal hostels with a strength of 2,782 students and 314 Government Tribal Residential (GTR) schools with 27,652 students functioning in the State. This Government is constructing new buildings for these hostels and schools to improve the facilities. **Another 19 new hostel buildings will be constructed at a cost of Rs.46 crore in 2018-2019.** The Government has enhanced the monthly food charges of school hostel boarders from Rs.755/- to Rs.900/- and college hostel boarders from Rs.875/- to Rs.1,000/- in 2017-2018. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.32.20 crore and Rs.118.48 crore have been provided for constructing hostel buildings and for food charges respectively.

112) In 2017-2018, Rs.98 crore has been provided as scholarships to 3.60 lakh students under the pre-matric scholarship scheme. Despite the huge arrears of Rs.1,546.88 crore awaiting release by the Government of India, this Government has been providing post matric

scholarships to students to enable them to pursue higher education without any financial obstacle. In 2017-2018, 8.75 lakh students have benefitted from the post-matric scholarship scheme. **In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.129.16 crore and Rs.1,838.24 crore have been allocated for the pre matric and post-matric scholarship schemes. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.71.01 crore has been provided for the free bicycle scheme and Rs.150 crore has been provided for extending Special Central Assistance. Considering the importance of providing basic amenities to Adi Dravidar habitations, Rs.100 crore will be set apart every year from devolution grants to rural local bodies to execute such works from 2018-2019.**

113) Under the 'Comprehensive Tribal Development Programme' (CTDP), the Government has taken up infrastructure development activities in tribal areas and has been providing financial assistance to tribal families for taking up income-generating activities by allocating Rs.50 crore annually. **In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.3,207.04 crore has been allocated for the Adi Dravidar Welfare Department and Rs.333.82 crore has been allocated for the Tribal Welfare Department.**

Welfare of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities

114) The Government is resolute in its commitment to ensuring the well-being and development of the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities. The scheme of providing bicycles free of cost to the students belonging to these communities and studying in class XI in Government and Government aided schools will continue in 2018-2019 with a budgetary allocation of Rs.229.98 crore. The Government has sanctioned Rs.13.07 crore in 2017-2018 to improve infrastructure facilities in Kallar Reclamation Schools with NABARD's loan assistance and the works are in progress. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.20.10 crore and Rs.80.37 crore have been provided for construction of hostels and for food charges respectively. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.972.86 crore has been allocated for the Department of Backward classes, Most Backward classes and De-notified Communities Welfare.

Labour welfare

115) There are 17 unorganised workers' welfare boards including the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers' Welfare Board. So far, 68.52 lakh workers have been registered under the various unorganised workers' welfare boards in the State, including 17,949 migrant members who have been registered with the Construction Workers Welfare Board. In 2017-2018, an amount of Rs.54.38 crore has been distributed to the members of these boards as welfare assistance. An online portal has been developed to facilitate easy registration and availing of welfare assistance. An allocation of Rs.87.80 crore has been made in this Budget for grants to Unorganised Workers' Welfare Boards.

Social Security

116) The Government is committed to ensuring social security net to all vulnerable

and poor sections of the society by providing Rs.1,000/- per month to senior citizens, widows, destitute, differently-abled and transgenders. **While 29.18 lakh persons are now benefitting under this scheme, as a one time measure, to clear all the pending petitions of eligible persons, the ceiling of sanction will be increased to 29.80 lakh persons. Therefore, all the qualified persons will be able to receive social security pension.** In this Budget, Rs.3,881.66 crore has been allocated for these social security pensions.

Women and Child Welfare

117) The pioneering schemes launched by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the 'Cradle Baby Scheme' and the 'Girl Child Protection scheme' have contributed significantly in reducing the female infanticide and foeticide in the State. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.140.50 crore has been allotted for these schemes. Under the marriage assistance schemes, this Government is giving eight gram gold coin for Thirumangalyam and cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- to non-graduates and Rs.50,000/- to graduates and diploma holders. **An amount of Rs.724 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019 for these Marriage Assistance schemes.**

118) The Hon'ble Prime Minister recently launched the 'Amma Two Wheeler subsidy assistance scheme' on 24.02.2018 in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister for empowering working women by improving their mobility, under which they are being provided 50 per cent subsidy not exceeding Rs.25,000/- per beneficiary to purchase two wheelers. In 2017-2018, the Government has distributed subsidy to 5,306 women against one lakh beneficiaries. **The remaining will be covered during 2018-2019 along with an additional one lakh beneficiaries. An amount of Rs.250 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates.**

119) This Government will continue to implement the 'Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., Nutritious Meal Programme' through 43,143 noon meals centres. In the Budget Estimates, Rs.1,747.72 crore and Rs.2,146.30 crore have been allocated for the Nutritious Meal programme and the ICDS scheme respectively. An amount of Rs.100.71 crore is provided for the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). In the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019, Rs.5,611.62 crore has been allocated for the Social Welfare Department.

Welfare of Government Employees and Pensioners

120) The Government has revised the pay and allowances of Government employees and pension for pensioners based on the report of the Officials Committee with effect from 1st October 2017. This entails an increased financial commitment of Rs.14,718.90 crore per annum. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.260 crore has been allocated for the payment of premium towards the New Health Insurance Scheme for employees and Rs.126.25 crore for the New Health Insurance Scheme for pensioners. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.25,362.20 crore has been allocated for pensions and other retirement benefits.

Welfare of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees

121) This Government has been extending various social welfare schemes like social security pensions, marriage assistance and health insurance schemes to the Sri Lankan Tamils living in refugee camps. In the Budget Estimates, Rs.109.42 crore has been provided for the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.

Welfare of the Differently-Abled

122) The Government is running 435 special schools and 42 vocational training centres for the differently-abled. **In accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, a state fund will be constituted for the differently-abled persons with an allocation of Rs.10 crore. A statewide survey of persons with disabilities will be undertaken to create a dynamic database for designing specific welfare programmes to enable them to lead a secure life. Motorised mobility assistive devices have been sanctioned for the first time to 1,000 persons affected by muscular dystrophy and paraplegia during the current year. In the ensuing financial year, these motorised mobility assistive devices will be sanctioned to another 2,000 beneficiaries at a cost of Rs.13 crore. Further, another 2,000 retrofitted scooters will be distributed to the differently-abled persons at a cost of Rs.12 crore. The present margin money subsidy will be enhanced from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.25,000/- to encourage self-employment of differently-abled persons and the number of beneficiaries under this scheme will be doubled from the present level of 1,000 per year to 2,000 per year. In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, Rs.545.21 crore has been allocated for the Welfare of Differently-Abled Department.**

Welfare of the Minorities

123) The Government has introduced a scheme to provide grants for repair and renovation of churches from 2016-2017 and has also enhanced the annual grant for Tamil Nadu Waqf Board from Rs.1 crore to Rs.2 crore from 2017-2018. **A working women hostel will be constructed for working Muslim women on the place owned by Waqf Board in Chennai with Government's financial assistance in the ensuing financial year.** During 2017-2018, Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation (TAMCO) has given loans of Rs.28.52 crore to 5,699 beneficiaries for economic development of minorities. In 2018-2019, economic development assistance to the tune of Rs.35 crore will be disbursed by TAMCO.

PART - B

Resources for financing the Budget

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

124) We will now look into the resources that have been identified to finance the various expenditure items envisaged in the Budget 2018-2019.

125) The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) constitutes the major part of the revenue receipts of the State. As mentioned earlier, the national and the State economies are recovering slowly from the stagnation and this is expected to have a positive impact on the growth of SOTR.

126) Commercial Taxes is the largest contributor to the State's own tax revenues. With respect to the receipts under the GST, the State receives revenues under the State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) and the Inter-State Goods and Services Tax (IGST), which directly form part of the Commercial Tax revenues. The GST Compensation is released as a grant from the Government of India and so forms part of the Grants-in-Aid. The Sales Tax on petrol and diesel, tax on the sale of IMFL form the other important sources of revenue under Commercial Taxes. Considering the above factors, revenue from Commercial Taxes has been estimated at Rs.75,264.99 crore in the Revised Estimates 2017-2018, and at Rs.86,858.59 crore in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019.

127) Considering the slow growth in State Excise, the Excise Duty collection has been projected at Rs.6,488.41 crore in the Revised Estimates 2017-2018 and at Rs.6,997.83 crore in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019. The downward revision of guideline value and the simultaneous increase in the registration fee has had a positive impact on the revenue collections from the Stamp Duty and Registration Fees. As a result, the receipts under the Stamp Duty and Registration Fees have been estimated to be Rs.9,806.97 crore in the Revised Estimates 2017-2018 and Rs.10,935.67 crore in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019. The revenue from Motor Vehicle Taxes is estimated to be at Rs.6,211.74 crore during 2018-2019.

128) Keeping in view the above projections, the SOTR has been revised to Rs.98,693.24 crore in the Revised Estimates 2017-2018 and has been projected at Rs.1,12,616.41 crore in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019. The receipts under the State's Own Non-Tax Revenue have been estimated at Rs.11,301.11 crore in 2018-2019.

129) The reduction of share in the horizontal devolution for Tamil Nadu from 4.969 per cent to 4.023 per cent based on the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission's continues to have adverse impact on the fiscal resources of the State. Citing the increase in the vertical devolutionary share from 32 per cent to 42 per cent, the Government of India has drastically reduced its share in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. However, the increase in vertical devolutionary share has not provided Tamil Nadu with any additional fiscal space and therefore the State Government has to provide resources from its own revenues for implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

130) The Central Taxes generally have an average growth of 15 per cent per annum and the devolution to the States is bound to increase as the Central taxes grow. The 14th Finance Commission recommended a devolution of Rs.1.59 lakh crore to Tamil Nadu for the five year period commencing from 2015-2016 to 2019-2020, as against the devolution of Rs.72,070 crore recommended during the 13th Finance Commission period from 2010-2011 to 2014-2015. This is an increase of only 121 per cent as against the average increase of 173 per cent at the All India level. Similarly placed States like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan, which

had received devolution comparable to Tamil Nadu during the 13th Finance Commission period, have now got an increase in devolution to the tune of 198%, 191%, 166% and 157% respectively. Further, this increase in devolution is only a recommendation by the 14th Finance Commission, but in reality, the State has been receiving much lower levels of Central funding. For instance, in the first three years of the 14th Finance Commission, i.e., 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, Tamil Nadu will receive a devolutionary grant of Rs.72,234.28 crore as against the recommended grant of Rs.81,570 crore. This receipt by Tamil Nadu in first three years of 14th Finance Commission compared to the first three years of 13th Finance Commission period shows an increase of 89.35 per cent only. However, the corresponding average increase at the All India level is 134.02 per cent. On the contrary, there has been huge increases in the devolution to other States like 155.14 per cent to Karnataka, 127.59 per cent to undivided Andhra Pradesh, 148.93 per cent to Maharashtra, 137.70 per cent to Gujarat and 149.82 per cent to Kerala. It is solely on this ground of unfair treatment meted out to Tamil Nadu that we have been pressing the Government of India for an adhoc allocation in the form of special compensation. However, the Central Government has not responded positively to this request so far. Taking all this into account, in the Revised Estimates, the share in Central Taxes has been estimated at Rs.27,099.72 crore during 2017-2018 and Rs.31,707.09 crore in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019. Similarly, the Grants-in-Aid, including GST compensation have been estimated at Rs.19,264.60 crore in the Revised Estimates 2017-2018 and Rs.20,626.87 crore in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019.

Fiscal Indicators

131) While the Total Revenue Receipts (TRR) of the State have been projected at Rs.1,55,824.70 crore in the Revised Estimates 2017-2018, the revenue expenditure is estimated to be Rs.1,74,194.97 crore, leaving the revenue deficit at Rs.18,370.27 crore. Taking the pay revision into account, salaries and allowances are estimated to be Rs.52,171.18 crore and pension and other retirement benefits are estimated to be Rs.25,362.20 crore in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019. Thus, the total revenue receipts are projected to be Rs.1,76,251.48 crore and the total revenue expenditure is projected to be Rs.1,93,742.06 crore during 2018-2019, leaving a revenue deficit of Rs.17,490.58 crore.

132) In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, the capital expenditure has been estimated at Rs.28,282.76 crore, and the fiscal deficit has been projected to be at Rs.44,480.73 crore, which is about 2.79 per cent of GSDP. It is estimated that Rs.43,962.48 crore would be raised as net borrowings during 2018-2019, as against the permissible limit of Rs.47,887.59 crore. The net outstanding debt at the end of 31st March, 2019 will be Rs.3,55,844.84 crore and the Debt-GSDP ratio will be 22.29 per cent which is well below the Debt-GSDP norm of 25 per cent.

133) The Medium Term Fiscal Plan has been given as an annexure to this Budget Speech and I request that this may be taken as read as part of this speech.

134) We are aware that the public aspirations are very high but resource constraints continue to persist. This Government has overcome two major obstacles viz., implementation of UDAY scheme and pay panel recommendations amidst these financially challenging times. The silver lining in the dark cloud is that there are signs of economic revival. This is expected to improve our resources and the present revenue deficit, which is largely due to the additional expenditures arising out of UDAY scheme and pay panel implementation, is expected to narrow down in the coming years. This implies that our borrowing is expected to be brought under control and more resources will be made available for welfare schemes and development expenditure. This will enable us to accelerate economic development and ensure that the State continues in the path leading to prosperity.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

135) Fifty years ago, on 6th March 1967, our great Tamil leader Perarignar Anna took oath as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu sowing the seed for Dravidian rule. Certain political critics with myopic vision indulge in fallacious propaganda against the Dravidian rule.

They are living in an illusion and day dreaming about destroying the Dravidian movement. To them, I want to send a clear message, that Tamil Nadu has progressed much better than many other States and achieved stupendous progress on various socio-economic fronts during the last fifty years. No person with true conscience will ever deny the progress made by Tamil Nadu in health, education, social security, human development index, industrial and economic development or in providing basic amenities to the people. Though I can talk at length on this, I would confine myself by making a reference to a couple of indicators. In the recent publication of NITI Aayog, Tamil Nadu stands at third place among all the States in the Country in health indicators and first place in higher education enrolment. In 1973-1974, the percentage of persons living below poverty line in India was 54.88%. At the same period, it was 54.94% in Tamil Nadu. As per 2011-2012 NSS survey, this per centage has come down to 11.28% in Tamil Nadu as against 21.92% at all India level. At the same period, this per centage has come down from 48.15% to 16.63% in Gujarat, 54.47% to 20.90% in Karnataka, 61.78% to 31.65% in Madhya Pradesh, 53.24% to 17.35% in Maharashtra, 46.14% to 14.71% in Rajasthan, 57.07% to 29.43% in Uttar Pradesh, 63.43% to 19.98% in West Bengal. Similarly, the per capita income at current prices in Tamil Nadu was Rs.334/- during 1960-1961 as against the national average of Rs.306/-. During 2016-2017, the per capita income has gone upto Rs.1,53,263 as against the national average of Rs.1,03,219. In terms of GDP, Tamil Nadu stood at fifth place during 1950's. Today, ours is the second largest economy in the Country. All these achievements have been made possible by the social equity agenda provided by the Dravidian movement, without much patronage from the successive Central Governments, while such patronage has been extended to many other States. It is very clearly evident that we have grown on our own efforts and on

our own strength. Such political critics should understand that Tamil Nadu is the crucible of socio-economic transformation, which others must emulate. I leave it to the people of the State to decide on our contribution to the State's progress by comparing with other States. I would like to mention here that in the period of Dravidian Parties rule, the AIADMK founded by Puratchi Thalaivar and nurtured by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma alone has governed the State for the maximum period and has contributed to this enormous growth. But, let me reassure that whatever be the criticism, opposition, mischievous propaganda, the Dravidian movement will grow in strength. Taking praise and criticism with equanimity of mind, our march will continue to fulfill the dreams of our leaders who have toiled and nurtured this movement.

136) Our Hon'ble Chief Minister, a simple person with profound practical wisdom, has guided us meticulously to prepare this Budget. He is a simple person capable of understanding the needs of the people and reflect in his action. I am confident that this Budget, prepared with his guidance will pave the way to accelerate economic growth and bring more prosperity to the State. I am grateful to our Hon'ble Chief Minister for his support and guidance in our endeavour to prepare and present this Budget.

137) I convey my thanks to Thiru. K. Shanmugam, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department and all other officials of the Finance Department who have been putting their best efforts on the preparation of the Budget.

138) Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I commend the Budget Estimates for the year 2018-2019 for the approval of this august House.

Nandri Vanakkam

APPENDIX

MEDIUM TERM FISCAL PLAN

The State Government shall lay a Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) before the Legislative Assembly along with the Budget in accordance with section 3(1) of the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003 (TNFRA). As per Section 3(2) of the said Act, the MTFP shall also set forth a multi year rolling target for the prescribed fiscal indicators like Revenue Deficit, Fiscal Deficit, etc., with specification of underlying assumptions made to arrive at those projections. Complying with the said provisos under the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003, a Medium Term Fiscal Plan for the period from 2018-2019 to 2020-2021 is hereby placed before the Legislative Assembly.

Objectives

The MTFP has been envisaged with the key objective to strike balance between developmental expenditure and fiscal prudence and facilitate high economic growth that will create the necessary fiscal space for investments in key sectors. The State Government is implementing large number of welfare schemes for improving social security, education, health, etc. Simultaneously, the State has to meet the ever increasing administrative expenditure, mainly due to periodic hike in Dearness Allowance, increments, creation of new posts and filling up of vacancies. Apart from all these,

paramount importance is continuously given to capital expenditure which includes construction of roads and bridges, irrigation works and power infrastructure development. Despite all financial constraints, the State Government is committed to achieving fiscal consolidation by complying with the roadmap set forth by the Central Finance Commission.

The MTFP will ensure compliance with the norms of fiscal prudence, such as, containing the Revenue Deficit to the minimum, maintaining Fiscal Deficit within three per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and limiting Outstanding Debt to GSDP ratio within the prescribed limits of the Central Finance Commission during 2018- 2021 and thereafter.

Future Prospects

The nominal growth of GSDP is projected based on the new 2011-2012 series at constant prices and is adopted in the Budget. The Indian economy has been passing through a challenging phase due to the uncertainties caused by demonetisation and the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST). Despite all these factors, the State's economy is expected to pick up growth in the coming years.

I. **Revenue Receipts**

The Total Revenue Receipts of the State Government, including the Central Transfers, are estimated to be Rs.1,76,251 crore in 2018-2019. Its important components and their growth trends are discussed below.

1. **State's Own Tax Revenue**

The change in the indirect tax regime and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) created an uncertainty in the economy in the short term, thus affecting its growth rate. The global and the national economies are slowly gathering up pace. Despite these factors, the State's economy has picked up moderate growth and the GSDP growth rate, at constant prices, in 2017-2018 is estimated to be 8.03%. It is also anticipated that the economy will grow faster and thereby enabling the State to reach 9% growth rate in 2018-2019. The favourable climate in the State's economy is expected to considerably enhance the State's own tax revenues.

The State's Own Tax Revenue is estimated to be Rs.98,693 crore in the Revised Estimates 2017-2018. It is estimated to increase to Rs.1,12,616 crore in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019. A growth rate of 11.97% and 11.80% is assumed for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 respectively.

Salient features of the major components of the State's Own Tax Revenue are discussed below.

- Considering the roll out of Goods and Services Tax (GST) during 2017-2018, the receipts from the Commercial Taxes are estimated to be Rs.86,859 crore in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019.
- Taking into account the impact of the closure of TASMAC shops post the Supreme Court's ban on liquor shops on the State and National Highways in March 2017, the State Excise Duty collection has been estimated at Rs.6,998 crore in 2018-2019.

- The downward revision of guideline value and the simultaneous increase of registration fees have had a positive impact on the revenue collected from Stamp Duty and Registration fees. Therefore, the receipts from Stamp Duty and Registration fees are expected to be Rs.10,936 crore during 2018-2019 as against Rs.9,807 crore estimated in Revised Estimates 2017-2018.
- The collections under the Taxes on Motor Vehicles are estimated in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019 at Rs.6,212 crore as against Rs.5,635 crore estimated in the Revised Estimates 2017-2018.

2. **Non-Tax Revenue**

The State's Own Non-Tax Revenue has been estimated at Rs.11,301 crore in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019. Since the Government services are either delivered free of cost or at nominal fees and the mining potential of the State being limited, the Non Tax Revenue has been estimated to be marginally higher than the Revised Estimates 2017-2018. A growth rate of 5% is assumed for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

3. **Share in Central Taxes**

The Central Finance Commissions, one after the other, have gradually decreased the inter-se-share of Tamil Nadu. The inter-se-share of Tamil Nadu from Thirteenth Finance Commission to Fourteenth Finance Commission has witnessed a slide down from 4.969% to 4.023% in the general divisible pool and from 5.047% to 4.104% in case of Service Tax pool. The Share in Central Taxes for the State has been estimated at Rs.31,707 crore during 2018-2019 in the Budget Estimates based on the projection given in the Union Budget 2018-2019. The Fifteenth Finance Commission has been constituted, and its recommendations would have an impact on the devolution for 2020-2021. For this medium term, we have not taken this factor into account, and have assumed that there is no change in the devolutionary pattern. A growth rate of 15% is assumed for the financial years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 also.

4. **Grants-in- Aid from the Union Government**

The Grants-in-Aid from the Government of India have been estimated at Rs.20,627 crore for 2018-2019, based on the provisions made in the Union Budget 2018-2019. For the financial years of 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, a growth rate of 10% has been assumed.

II. **Revenue Expenditure**

The revenue expenditure during 2018-2019 is estimated at Rs.1,93,742 crore which shows a growth of 11.22% over Revised Estimates 2017-2018. The main components are explained below:

- The allocation for salaries is Rs.52,171 crore and for pensions and other retirement benefits is Rs.25,362 crore in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019. There has been a substantial increase in salaries and

pension components in the Revised Estimates for 2017-2018 and the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019, owing to the implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations. The two components form 40.02% of the Total Revenue Expenditure in 2018-2019. Considering the additional expenditure due to periodic hikes in Dearness Allowance, increments and filling up of vacancies, a growth rate of 10.50% for salaries and 10.15% for pensions and other retirement benefits in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 are assumed.

- For Subsidies and Grants, Rs.75,723 crore is allocated in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019. The allocation includes expenditure for various ongoing welfare schemes like food subsidy, power subsidy, scholarships, housing schemes and agricultural loan waiver. Further, the devolution to Local Bodies has been increased and included in the Budget Estimates based on the recommendation of the Fifth State Finance Commission. A growth rate of 8% is assumed for Subsidies and Grants for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

- Expenditure on Non wage Operations and Maintenance is projected at Rs.10,838 crore in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019. This is mainly on account of maintenance, administrative expenses, fuel cost and distribution of uniform to school students.

- A growth rate of 7% is assumed for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

- In the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, the Interest Payments have been estimated at Rs.29,624 crore, which is 15.29% of the Total Revenue Expenditure. The ratio of Interest Payments to Total Revenue Receipts will be 16.81% in 2018-2019. This is expected to be 17.92% in 2019-2020 and 17.52% in 2020-2021.

III. Capital Expenditure

The State is paying special attention to capital expenditure. This is once again proved by the increased allocation of Rs.28,283 crore in the Budget Estimates for 2018-2019 as against Rs.24,298 crore in the Revised Estimates 2017-2018. This is expected to grow further at 15% in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

IV. Revenue Deficit and Fiscal Deficit

The tax revenue growth has been lower than that estimated in the Budget Estimates 2017-2018 and this is predominantly due to the closure of liquor shops as per the Supreme Court's ban on their operations within 500 metre from the State and the National Highways. As a result, there is drop in State's Own Tax Revenue growth rate, especially in the receipts from Commercial Tax and State Excise. The Revenue Deficit is expected to be Rs.17,491 crore and the Fiscal Deficit is estimated to be Rs.44,481 crore in the Budget Estimates 2018-2019. The Fiscal Deficit to GSDP ratio is estimated at 2.79% as per the Budget Estimates 2018-2019, which is well below the 3% fiscal

norm. The implementation of Seventh Pay Commission recommendations has resulted in an additional commitment of Rs.14,719 crore per annum in salaries and pensions, and thus increased the burden on the State's finances. Taking all these into account, in the forthcoming years, Fiscal Deficit to GSDP ratio will be 2.76% in 2019-2020 and 2.57% in 2020-2021.

V. **Borrowings**

The estimates for receipt and repayment of borrowings have been finalized on the basis of overall borrowing ceiling fixed by the Government of India based on the formula indicated by 14th Finance Commission. The Government plans to borrow a net amount of Rs.43,962 crore only against the estimated Net Borrowing Ceiling of Rs.47,888 crore in 2018-2019. The outstanding debt including provident fund will be Rs.3,55,845 crore as on 31.03.2019. This will constitute only 22.29 per cent of GSDP.

VI. **Guarantees**

The outstanding guarantees for each year have to be restricted at a level of 100 per cent of the Total Revenue Receipts in the preceding year or 10 per cent of the GSDP, whichever is lower. The outstanding guarantees as on 31.03.2017 was 22.59 per cent of Total Revenue Receipts and 2.24 per cent of GSDP.

The outstanding risk weighted guarantees for each year have to be kept at a level of 75 per cent of the Total Revenue Receipts of the preceding year or 7.5 per cent of GSDP whichever is lower. The outstanding risk weighted guarantees as on 31.03.2017 stood at 4.37 per cent of Total Revenue Receipts and 0.43 per cent of GSDP.

"The State Government will continue to take concerted efforts for faster economic recovery, which will pave way for enhancing the State's fiscal position and improve fiscal consolidation".

Conclusion

The economy is slowly picking up which is evident from the increase in GSDP growth rate in real terms, from 4.85% in 2012-2013 to 8.03% in 2017-2018 despite the temporary setbacks in between.

However, there is a significant fall in the growth of the State's Own Tax Revenue in 2017-2018, especially due to the fall in Commercial Tax and State Excise which have negatively impacted the revenue receipts. Further, the decrease in horizontal share of Central Taxes due to Fourteenth Finance Commission's recommendations, and the increase in States' share in Centrally Sponsored Schemes have further hampered the State's Finances. The trends in expenditure are steady except for the hike in salaries and pensions due to implementation of Seventh Central Pay Commission recommendations. Despite these constraints, the overall Fiscal Deficit, net borrowings and outstanding debt-GSDP ratio will be within the permissible limits. The State Government will continue to take concerted efforts for faster economic recovery, which will pave way for enhancing the State's fiscal position and improve fiscal consolidation.

Unanimous resolution calls for swift implementation of Cauvery order

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, proposing the Government resolution in the Legislative Assembly on 15.03.2018, urging the Centre to set up the Cauvery Management Board *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker,

The Cauvery water issue is not merely the livelihood issue of the Cauvery delta farmers but one that is intertwined with the sensibilities of the people of Tamil Nadu.

I propose the following resolution in this House urging the Central Government to immediately set up the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee as per the final orders of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the judgment of the Supreme Court and confer these bodies with all the executive powers.

RESOLUTION: "This House urges the Central Government to set up, as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's final order and the Supreme Court's judgment delivered on 16.02.2018, the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee with all executive powers within six weeks, as stipulated in the judgment of the Supreme Court, and bring them into force for the effective implementation of the final order of the Cauvery Tribunal".

Hon'ble Speaker,

I request the Hon'ble Members, through the Hon'ble Speaker, to unanimously pass this resolution, brought in by the Government.

'Central Government should immediately form Cauvery Management Board'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 15.03.2018, on the Tamil Nadu Government's special resolution, urging the Central Government to set up, as per the final order of the Cauvery Tribunal and the Supreme Court's judgment of 16.02.2018, the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee with all powers, within six weeks and make them operational, for the effective implementation of the Tribunal's final order (English Translation).

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

A solution evaded this long-standing dispute among the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry in spite of several rounds of talks among them and the Central Government's intervention.

The 1892 and 1924 agreements between the Madras Presidency and the Mysore State make clear Tamil Nadu's rights over Cauvery water. Still, Karnataka took steps in the late 1960s and early 1970s to construct many dams without consulting the States that have a right on the Cauvery river water and without getting the Central Government's approval.

The Cauvery Irrigated Produce Farmers' Welfare Protection Association of Tamil Nadu filed a case in the Supreme Court in 1983. In 1986, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. wrote a letter to the Central Government for the constitution of a Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. As a follow up, the Tamil Nadu Government impleaded itself in that case in 1986. On 04.05.1990, the Supreme Court directed the Central Government to set up the Tribunal. On that basis, the Central Government set up a Cauvery Tribunal on 02.06.1990 and published it in its gazette.

The Cauvery Tribunal issued an interim order on 25.06.1991, directing Karnataka to release water from its reservoirs as to ensure 205 tmc ft.of water at Mettur dam every year. After setting up 6 tmc ft. of water to Puducherry, Tamil Nadu's share of this water would be 199 tmc ft. of water. The interim order further stipulated that the water release should be on monthly and weekly basis and this order would be in force till the final verdict was given.

The Karnataka Government promulgated an ordinance to nullify this interim order. His Excellency, the President of India sought the Supreme Court's opinion on Karnataka's ordinance. In its opinion, given on 22.11.1991,

the Supreme Court upheld the Tribunal's interim order and stated that the order should be published in the Central Government's gazette and that Karnataka's ordinance was invalid. On the basis of this opinion, the Central Government published the Tribunal's interim order in its gazette on 10.12.1991.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, gave its final verdict on 05.02.2007, after hearing the case for 16 years. As per this verdict, Karnataka Government should make available 192 tmc ft. of water per year on monthly basis at Biligundulu Water Station point. For effective implementation of its final verdict, the Tribunal recommended the constitution of a Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee.

The Karnataka and Kerala Governments went in appeal against the Tribunal's final order and filed civil suits in the Supreme Court. The Tamil Nadu Government also filed a civil suit for review of certain portions of the final order of the Tribunal.

After taking over the administration in 2011, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, was persistent in her efforts, through letters and memoranda of demands to the Prime Minister, for the publication of the Tribunal's final verdict in Central Government's gazette. Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's consistent efforts and the Supreme Court's intervention brought about the publication of the Tribunal's final order in the Central Government's gazette on 19.02.2013 and it came into force.

Though the Tribunal's final order was gazetted, the Central Government did not constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee. Hence, on the orders of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Tamil Nadu Government, filed an interim petition in the Supreme Court on 18.03.2013, seeking a direction to the Central Government, to immediately set up these two bodies. When this petition came up for hearing on 10.05.2013, the Supreme Court directed the Central Government to set up a Cauvery Supervisory Committee as a temporary measure, pending the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board. As per this order, the Centre set up a Supervisory Committee.

Though the Central Government had set up, as a temporary measure, a Supervisory Committee, there should be a permanent structure for implementing the Tribunal's final verdict in full. Hence, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, continued to urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister, through memoranda of demands and letters, to set up the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee.

Besides, this Government, that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is also stressing on the Central Government, through memoranda of demands and letters, to set up these two bodies speedily. Also, resolutions were unanimously passed in this House on 05.12.2014, 27.03.2015 and 02.09.2016, urging the Centre to set up forthwith these two bodies and these resolutions were sent to the Central Government. Legal steps have also been taken. However, the Central Government did not heed to Tamil Nadu's demands.

The admissibility of the appeal suits were argued out in the Supreme Court by all States and the Central Government. The Supreme Court allowed all the petitions.

Though the Supreme Court directed the Central Government to set up the Cauvery Management Board within 4 weeks when the suit came up for hearing on 20.09.2016, it kept its order in abeyance when it heard on 04.10.2016, a petition filed by the Central Government.

After this, final arguments of the States were heard by the Supreme Court from July 2017 to September 2017. In these arguments, the Karnataka Government took 9 days, Kerala, 2 days, Tamil Nadu 13 days and Puducherry and the Central Government, one day each. The Supreme Court, announced on 20.09.2017 that it was reserving its judgment.

In its judgment delivered on 16.02.2018, the Supreme Court mentioned (para 403; pages 456-457) that the Central Government should frame a scheme for the implementation of the final order of the Cauvery Tribunal. It said:

"We have referred to the aforesaid passages as the award of the Tribunal has to be treated as decree of the Supreme Court. It is so stated in Section 6 (2) to give teeth to the award passed by the Tribunal so that none of the States can raise objection to the same and be guided by the directions of the Tribunal. The purpose of framing the scheme is exclusively for implementation of the award. The authorities cited by Mr.Ranjit Kumar, (Solicitor General), we are afraid, are of no assistance in the present context. It needs no special emphasis to state that the purpose of Section 6A is to act in the manner in which the award determines the allocation and decides the dispute with regard to allocation or sharing of water. Keeping that in view, we direct that a scheme shall be framed by the Central Government within a span of six weeks from today so that the authorities under the scheme can see to it that the present decision which has modified the award passed by the Tribunal, is smoothly made functional and the rights of the States as determined by us are appositely carried out. When we say so, we also categorically convey that the need-based monthly release has to be respected. It is hereby made clear that no extension shall be granted for framing of the scheme on any ground".

The reduction of Tamil Nadu's share by 14.75 tmc ft. of water, through this judgment, saddens Tamil Nadu. To discuss this and the final judgment of the Supreme Court, a meeting of leaders of all parties and Presidents of Farmers' Associations was held on 22.02.2018. I presided over the meeting. The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

1. The Central Government will be pressed to set up the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee with all powers, within 6 weeks as per the Supreme Court's judgment of 16.02.2018, to enable timely supply of Tamil Nadu's share of water.

2. Concurring wholly with the views of all party leaders over the reduction of 14.75 tmc ft. of water effected by the Supreme Court in the allocation of water given to Tamil Nadu in the final award of the Tribunal and passing on the same to Karnataka, appropriate action will be initiated after consulting legal experts.

3. A delegation of All Party Leaders, Presidents of Farmers' associations and members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu, will meet the Hon'ble Prime Minister, under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister and emphasise for the immediate setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee and for the implementation of those aspects in the Supreme Court judgment, favourable to Tamil Nadu.

I requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister in person when he came over here for the inauguration of the scheme for distribution of Amma Two Wheelers to women at subsidized rates on 24.02.2018, the Birth Anniversary of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, for the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee within the time limit stipulated in the Supreme Court judgment. In continuation of this, I presented a letter in person to the Hon'ble Central Government Minister for Road Traffic, Highways and Harbour, Water Resources, River Development and Reclamation of Ganges, when he came to Chennai on 25.02.2018. I have also sent a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, seeking an appointment for a delegation, led by me, of All Party Leaders, Presidents of farmers' associations and MPs of Tamil Nadu, to stress the above said demands.

As per the Supreme Court judgment, the Secretary to the Central Government Department of Water Resources, requested, through a letter dated 05.03.2018, the Chief Secretaries and the Secretaries of the Department of Water Resources of the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry, to participate at a meeting at New Delhi on 09.03.2018 and offer the views of their respective States.

To discuss Tamil Nadu's stand at that meeting, I consulted Hon'ble Ministers and Higher Officers of the Government on 07.03.2018. I instructed that Tamil Nadu should stress at that Central Government meeting for the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board with full powers and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee as per the Supreme Court's judgment and the final award of the Cauvery Tribunal, within the six weeks time limit set by the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court verdict is that the Central Government should frame within six weeks a "scheme" for executing the Cauvery Tribunal's final award and orders. Sec.6 (A) (2) of the Inter State River Water Disputes Act of 1956, clearly defines what that "scheme", mentioned by the Supreme Court, is. As per that proviso, it has been clearly mentioned that an organized structure with members with demarcated powers and work, should be set up to execute the final award of the Tribunal and the judgment delivered at present by the Supreme Court. In its judgment of 16.02.2018, the Supreme Court has clearly mentioned in Para 397 that there is no need to make any alterations in the rest of the Tribunal's final order barring the one that has been made in the allocation of water. Besides, the Supreme Court has pointed out in Para 399, that the Cauvery Tribunal, should monitor, month-wise, the release of water with the help of the Water Regulation Committee, concerned States and the Central Water Resources Authority.

As per the above judgment, it is clear that the "scheme" mentioned by the Supreme Court is the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee, as stated in the final award of the Tribunal, and that these bodies should have well demarcated powers. It has been made clear to the Central Government on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government that it has no other alternative than to set up the Cauvery Management Board as mentioned in the Tribunal's final order. Hence, it was stressed on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government that the Centre should set up the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee within six weeks as stipulated by the Supreme Court in its judgment. All these points were put forth explicitly at the meeting convened by the Centre on 09.03.2018.

Hence, I emphasize that the Central Government should immediately form the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee as per the Cauvery Tribunal's final award and the Supreme Court's judgment and that these bodies should have all powers.

'Law and order excellent in Tamil Nadu'

Explanation given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami** regarding Law and Order situation in Tamil Nadu in the Legislative Assembly on 11.01.2018 (*English Translation*).

Hon'ble Speaker,

The Law and Order situation is being maintained excellently in Tamil Nadu. I would like to mention some of the recent instances in this connection to justify my statement.

1. Sustained and severe action has been taken against those involved in crimes and against goondas, resulting in drastic reduction in crimes.

2. As per the records of National Crimes Bureau, 2016, Chennai Metro is recorded as the safest metro and Coimbatore as the safest city for women, due to excellent maintenance of Law and order.

3. During the year 2016, the total number of crimes against women in Tamil Nadu was 10.7 per cent as against the National average of 51.4 per cent, which is 40.7 per cent less.

4. At the all-India level, R.S.Puram Police Station in Coimbatore has been selected as the best Police station among 15,000 Police Stations in the Country. Similarly, Anna Nagar Police Station has been selected as the fifth best Police Station in the Country. The selection of the best station is based on 80 factors, including crime prevention, detection, quick detection, intelligent handling of the situation, behavior of the station staff with visitors and dealing of criminals.

The selection of these two Police Stations in Tamil Nadu as the best stations has brought pride to the State. I would like to inform the Leader of the Opposition through you that the selection of these two stations is proof of the best maintenance of law and order situation in the State.

Manifold steps to give Artisans a big hand

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K Palaniswami** at the Artisans Day function held at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 08.03.2018 (English Translation).

I bow to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries & personnel Administrative Reforms, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries, Hon'ble Ministers, Chairman of the Handicrafts Corporation, MLAs, former Ministers, former MPs and MLAs, Chief Secretary to Government, Managing Director of Poompuhar, artisans who have graced this function, media friends, members of the public, - at the outset, I convey my respects to all of you.

My 'Women's Day' greetings to all the women who have assembled here.

Artisans are those who can see art in stone and who can conceive many art forms in all the objects they see. 'Artisans Day' is held every year after an announcement was made to the effect in the Legislature. The aim is to infuse self-confidence into artisans and provide an impetus to them, to create interest in handicrafts among the public and promote marketing

opportunities. Annual awards are also distributed to artisans on this day. I am therefore very happy to participate in this function and to inaugurate various special programmes and present awards to artisans.

The Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation, a public sector undertaking, was started with the lofty ideal of upgrading the skills of handicraft artisans, giving training and improving their productivity, improving the quality of the products and reducing work load in the production of handicrafts. It also aims at removing the difficulties faced by the handicraft industry, encouraging innovation in designs, providing socio-economic security to handicraft artisans, registering these artisans and documenting their products and creating marketing opportunities for them.

This Corporation, popularly known as Poompuhar has 15 sales outlets and 7 production centres. With the help of information technology, Hon'ble Amma and Hon'ble Amma's Government took many steps in the past to improve the productivity of the uniquely skilled Tamil Nadu handicraft artisans so that their products can compete globally and fetch them higher income. I am happy to mention that Poompuhar has started earning profits commercially every year on account of the computerization of all the works of the Corporation and has also recorded many achievements.

I am happy and proud to say that the golden chariots of the Tirupathi temple, Eechanaari Vinayagar temple, Mylapore Kapaleeswarar temple and the Marudhamalai temple were all made by this Corporation.

As all administrative aspects of Poompuhar have been integrated and computerized, decisions on files are now taken just within 3 hours as compared to 30 days previously. To put it precisely, it has become a company where things move through paperless files. As a result of introducing information technology like Tally method of calculation, co-ordinated CCTV monitoring, e-billing, bio-metric attendance, bar coding, e-commerce, 3D designing and printing, online scrutiny and an e-encyclopaedia for handicraft artisans, the turnover of the company rose to Rs.40.35 crore in 2016-2017 from Rs.31.07 crore in 2013-2014; the profit rose to Rs.1.20 crore from Rs.0.78 crore. Besides, it received the Central Government's 2016-2017 'National Silver Award' for implementing e-governance in the company

and the Skoch Smart governance Platinum Award for the 'information exchange' activity by using information technology. This shows that the company is bringing about an e-revolution by utilizing modern information technology in all its activities. The company is earning profits continuously for the last 13 years, and I am happy to say that the trend will continue in the coming years also.

Poompuhar has its own portal for carrying on e-commerce. This facilitates customers to select and purchase the articles they need through Internet. The purchased articles are delivered directly to the customers through van/ motor cycle fitted with mobile phone with apps facility.

The company's inland and overseas sales have increased as it has entered into trade agreements with e-commerce giants like Snapdeal, Flipkart, Craftsvilla, Shopclues and IndiaMART.

To get the market for its products, Poompuhar has launched campaigns through about 10 social websites in worldwide web.

- Poompuhar has decorated and added gloss to the domestic and international terminals of the Chennai airport through display of best handicrafts. Likewise, it has decorated the airports at Madurai, Coimbatore, Tirupathi and Puducherry, the TCS Ramanujam Software Park, Chennai, Secretariat, Ripon Buildings and the Ennore and Kamaraj ports at Chennai. This will be followed by the beautification of Tiruchi and Thoothukudi airports and a variety of institutional buildings through display of handicraft articles.
- The Heritage handicraft articles of panchaloha idols, brass lamps, wooden sculptures and Thanjavur paintings are exported to Singapore, Malaysia, Australia the UK and the USA by Poompuhar.
- Poompuhar has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Australian company Green Trends for the export of handicraft articles as business on a continuing basis.

Under the innovative initiatives scheme, an exclusive website has been created for handicraft artisans by collecting information on them and on their skills. I inaugurated this website on 12.05.2017. The Tamil Nadu Government has provided Rs. 1 crore to the Handicrafts Development Corporation for this. In this website, separate web pages have

been opened for each and every handicraft artisan.

For marketing handicraft articles in big cities and tourist centres every year, a scheme – 'Urban Haat' (permanent craft bazaar) – is being implemented. One such was set up at Kanniyakumari under this scheme and I opened it on 08.03.2017. I am happy to inform that I inaugurated an 'Urban Haat' today at Mamallapuram, set up at a cost of Rs. 5 crore.

With financial assistance from the central and state Governments, a scheme is being implemented for integrated development and growth of handicrafts. The main aim of this scheme is to extend assistance for the creation of a conducive work environment, skill development, marketing facility and introduction of new designs. The two Governments have extended a financial assistance of Rs.20.38 crore. Towards this objective, common facility centres have been constructed at Nachiyarkovil, Swamimalai, Thanjavur, Madurai, Kanniyakumari and Vagaikulam and I have inaugurated them today. I am happy to say, more such centres will come up at various places in the state in the coming years.

I am also happy to state that Poompuhar virtual reality show rooms with modern technological facilities are proposed to be established at a cost of Rs.2.17 crore, provided by Tamil Nadu Government, at important places like international airports and museums where foreigners and customers frequent.

Tamil Nadu remains foremost in the whole of India in honouring handicraft artisans. It has instituted 7 kinds of awards to 247 best Artisans – the 'Living Craft Treasure Award', Poompuhar State Award, Poompuhar District Craft Award, Team Production Award, Utility Based Handicrafts Award, Handicrafts Export Award and Next Generation Craft Award.

I am happy to state that this year World Skills has recognized Mamallapuram as the "World Stone Sculpture City" and the stone sculptures in Mamallapuram have been given a GI tag. It is to be noted that already GI tags have been given to eight handicraft trades - Swamimalai panchaloha idol, Vadaseri temple jewellery, Thanjavur painting, Thanjavur Plates, Thanjavur doll, Nachiyarkovil Brass Lamp, Pathamadai mat and Thota artistic sewing.

I am happy to inform that I have today inaugurated the Mamallapuram Urban Haat, set up at a cost of Rs. 5 crore, a Craft Cafe, set up at Mamallapuram at a cost of Rs.0.35 crore, a Design Research and Development Centre at Chennai (Rs.1.68 crore) and six Common Facility Centres for handicraft artisans (Rs.3.60 crore) at Nachiyarkovil, Swamimalai, Thanjavur, Madurai, Kanniyakumari and Vagaikulam.

Preliminary works are to be started for the 'Ooty Urban Haat 'proposed to be set up at a cost of Rs.5 crore and for a second floor construction at the Poompuhar Sales Centre, Chennai (Rs. 0.50 crore). Similar works are to be started for two common facility centres at Pathamadai and Kuniyur in Tirunelveli District for the tottering handicraft industries of grass mat ("Koraipaai") and baked clay (Rs.0.90 crore).

I want this sector to flourish further, its artisans to progress in life and the cultural fame of Tamil Nadu to be elevated to the global level. Conveying my thanks to all those who have helped in the conduct of this function in an excellent way, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Chief Minister requests Karnataka to release at least 15 TMC ft. of water

D.O. letter dated 13.01.2018 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Siddaramaiah**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

"On the happy occasion of Makara Sankaranthi, I extend my warm greetings to you and the people of Karnataka.

I invite your kind attention to the notified Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, dated 5th February, 2007, according to which Tamil Nadu has to get 192 TMC ft. water in a year at Billigundulu, as per the monthly schedule specified in the order. But as on 09.01.2018, only 111.647 TMC ft. has been realized at Billigundulu against 179.871 TMC ft. due by that date, leaving a deficit of 68.224 TMC ft.

In this irrigation year 2017-2018, the Mettur reservoir could be opened for irrigation only on 2nd October, 2017 against the normal date of 12th June, 2017, as the inflow into the reservoir was poor and the storage was inadequate. Though the Samba cultivation commenced soon after and the rainfall due to the North-East Monsoon was helpful in the beginning, the intensity of rainfall became heavy and destructive by the end of October, 2017. The young crop could not withstand the onslaught of such rainfall and got damaged to a considerable extent. The farmers of the Cauvery delta had to replant the crop, as a result of which the crop period got extended. These standing crops need irrigation in the critical stage of crop growth maturity, namely, milky and dough stage, for which irrigation has to be extended beyond January 2018. At this instance, I would like to point out that the farmers of Cauvery delta lost their crop last year, 2016-2017, due to deficit inflows into Mettur reservoir.

The storage in the Mettur reservoir as on 12.01.2018 is a meagre 21.27 TMC ft. (utilizable storage 16.27 TMC ft). This is grossly inadequate to meet the irrigation needs of the standing crops and drinking water needs during the summer months.

The crop season in Karnataka is already over and there is a gross storage of about 49.82 TMC ft. as on 12.01.2018 in the State's four major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin. After reserving the minimum needs of drinking water supply and perennial crops, Karnataka can release at least 15 TMC ft. to Tamil Nadu to make up a part of the shortfall, which is required to meet the crucial needs of the standing crops in the Cauvery delta.

I request you to consider the plight of the large number of farmers of the delta who depend on the success of this crop to meet their livelihood and instruct your officers to release 7 TMC ft. of water immediately and the balance within a fortnight, from the existing storage for saving the standing crops".

Infrastructure facilities for Police get a boost

Forty-one apartments for Police Constables at Rajapalayam South, a Police Station at Vembakottai and an armoury building for the Tamil Nadu Special Police 11th Battalion, all costing about Rs.7,76,70,000/- were declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 04.01.2018 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami. Also declared open were 120 apartments for Constables and 4 Police Stations costing Rs.16,45,30,000/-.

The Police Department is involved in many important works like maintaining law and order, preventing crimes, tracing culprits and getting them convicted. To further improve the working of such an important Department, the Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many schemes like construction of new Police Stations and Police lines, improving the infrastructure facilities in the offices of the Department and distribution of vans for patrol duty.

Forty-one Police quarters were constructed at Rajapalayam South, Virudhunagar District at a cost of Rs.5,20,45,000/-. The Vembakottai Police Station was constructed at a cost of Rs.63.25 lakh and the armoury building at a cost of Rs.1.93 crore. Other buildings declared open were: 69 apartments for Constables at Periyakulam and Thenkarai, Theni District, 30 apartments for constables at Thali, Tiruppur District, 21 apartments for Constables at K.V.Kippam, Vellore District (totally 120 apartments at a cost of Rs.14,02,37,000/-); four Police Stations at Pallikaranai, Chennai Metropolitan area, Veeranam, Salem District, Roshanai and Ginjee in Villupuram District at a total cost of Rs.2,42,93,000/-. (In all, the cost of the buildings declared open was Rs.24,22,00,000/-).

The Chairman and Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Police Housing Board Thiru. N. Tamilselvan I.P.S. handed over a cheque to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for Rs.3.16 crore, being the dividend declared for the year 2016-2017 for the Corporation.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated the M Passport Police App. service to facilitate uploading of data from the passport applicant's residence itself through Tablet PC so as to reduce the wastage of time in the verification processes. The installation of the service has been done under the Tamil Nadu Innovative Initiatives Scheme at a cost of Rs.2,91,57,000/-. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also distributed the Tablet PCs with the M Passport Police App to 5 constables to mark the inauguration of the scheme. Under this scheme, 1,767 Tablet PCs will be distributed to all the Police Stations. This will quicken and simplify the work of issuing passports to people and ensure timely issue of passports. This is a pioneering scheme of Tamil Nadu.

At present, the Police Department is offering 7 internet services to the people through the introduction of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network Systems (CCTNS). They are: (1) Lodging of complaints, (2) To see and download First Information Report, (3) Knowing the status of the first information report and the community service register, (4) Scanning details on vehicles, (5) Information on missing persons and un-identified dead bodies, (6) Downloading of documents connected with road accidents and (7) Getting report on lost documents.

In continuation of this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated an SMS service to alert witnesses about court summons on 04.01.2018. On the basis of information recorded in CCTNS in Police Stations, the message on court summons will get generated and forwarded automatically to witnesses in advance. Tamil Nadu Police Department is the first one in the Country that has pioneered this facility.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented appointment orders to 24 Deputy Superintendents of Police, recruited by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.

Chennai District gets bigger by 67 revenue villages

The Chennai District has been expanded by annexing 67 revenue villages from the neighbouring Districts of Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur to make it coterminous with the Greater Chennai Municipal Corporation. The expanded Chennai District is now spread over 426 km and has 3 Revenue Divisions, 16 Taluks and 122 Revenue Villages.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated the expanded Chennai District at the Secretariat on 04.01.2018.

The three revenue divisions are: North Chennai Division with Tondiarpet as headquarters will have 32 revenue villages spread over the 5 Taluks of Tiruvottiyur, Tondiarpet, Madhavaram, Perambur and Purasawalkam; the Central Chennai Division with Ambattur as headquarters will have 47 revenue villages spread over the 6 Taluks of Ambattur, Ayanavaram, Aminjikarai, Maduravoyal, Mambalam and Egmore; and the South Chennai Division with Guindy as headquarters will have 43 revenue villages spread over the 5 Taluks of Guindy, Mylapore, Velachery, Alandur and Sholinganallur.

People in the extended areas can now easily and speedily get medical facilities, registration in employment exchange, educational services, Government's welfare assistance connected with disaster management, works connected with election, law and order, social security

schemes, services connected with land and welfare schemes.

Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated the website http://eservices.tn.gov.in to enable people download computerised land survey maps pertaining to 43 Taluks in 21 Districts in Tamil Nadu. The total number of field maps available in the Net for download, as a first phase, is 24.11 lakh. These maps pertain to the Taluks of Coimbatore North, Madukkarai, and Mettupalayam in Coimbatore District, Pappireddipatti, Dharmapuri, Nallampalli, Harur in Dharmapuri District, Natham in Dindigul District, Andhiyur, Bhavani, Thalavadi in Erode District, Uthiramerur in Kancheepuram District, Thovalai in Kanniyakumari District, Kadavur in Karur District, Madurai West in Madurai District, Rasipuram, Paramathi Velur, Kumarapalayam in Namakkal District, Thirukkuvalai in Nagapattinam District, Perambalur, Alathur, Veppanthattai in Perambalur District, Gandarvakottai and Pudukkottai in Pudukkottai District, Sankagiri, Mettur, Edappadi in Salem District, Coonoor, Kothagiri in Nilgiris District, Theni in Theni District, Srirangam in Tiruchirappalli District, Sivagiri, Sengottai in Tirunelveli District, Palladam, Tiruppur South, Avinashi in Tiruppur District, Poonamallee, Oothukottai, Tiruttani, Tiruvottiyur and Maduravoyal in Tiruvallur District, Arani in Tiruvannamalai District and Vanur in Villupuram District.

Land documents of 286 Taluks in Tamil Nadu have so far been brought into Internet use. As a result of this, people can download their patta/chitta and 'A' register copies, remaining in their houses or from common service centres. They can also apply online for changes in patta without going to Taluk offices. This averts unnecessary expenditure and time loss. The next stage in this work is digitizing the maps.

Besides written documents, people need, for various reasons, maps also. To meet this demand, the maps are digitized.

Digitizing field maps was taken up as a pilot project with Collab Land software in Perambalur district in 2004 and the work advanced gradually. Of the 55.33 lakh field maps 54.12 lakh maps have been digitized so far.

It is proposed to bring into internet use the field maps of the remaining 247 Taluks also by June 2018 in stages. After the completion of this work all pattadars will benefit. Along with the copies of their patta and 'A' register, people can download field maps also from the site http://eservices.tn.gov.in. Natham and urban land documents are also being digitized now. They will also be brought into internet use. Through this, all types of land documents will be brought into internet use.

Chief Minister greets Srirangam temple team for winning conservation award

Arulmigu Aranganatha Swamy Temple, Srirangam has won the Asia-Pacific UNESCO Award of Merit for the year 2017. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the temple, Thiru.Venu Srinivasan, along with other trustees, Dr. K.N.Srinivasan, Tmt. Kavitha Jagadeesan and Thiru.S.T.Rangachari, Hereditary Trustee Thiru. S. Venkatesh Uthamanambi and the temple priest Thiru. Sundar Bhattar met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat in Chennai on 24.01.2018 and showed the Award to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and received the Hon'ble Chief Minister's greetings.

Arulmigu Aranganathar Temple, popularly known as Boologa Vaikundam and Bhogamandapam, is the earliest and the most ancient shrine among the 108 Vaishanavite Shrines and is situated on 156 acres of land, with 7 prakarams, 7 rampart walls, and with the 13-tier Rajagopuram of 236 feet height, the tallest temple gopuram in South Asia. It is one of the biggest temples in the world which continues to be in the list of places of worship.

Following the instruction from the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the 'Samprokshanam' of 11 temple towers and 43 sub-shrines of the temple was conducted on 09.09.2015, at a cost of Rs.25 crore. The Maha Samprokshanam of main shrines, namely the Presiding Deity Periya Perumal Sannadhi, Sri Thaayar Sannidhi, Sri Garudazhvar Sannidhi, Sri Chakkarathazhvar Sannidhi, Udayavar Sri Ramanujar Sannidhi, Sri Pranaavakara

Vimanam and South Rajagopuram was performed on 18.11.2015.

During the renovation work, the mud walls constructed during later periods around sub-shrines that had disrupted their view, were removed so that the beautiful structures of the sub-shrines are visible clearly.

All the walls and mandapams were given water wash and painted with lime mixture. Temple towers, art works on vimanams, renovation of shrines and plating of top portion of mandapams were also undertaken. The entire temple complex was provided new electrical connection, at a cost of Rs. 1 crore and the sacred tanks inside temple, Chandra Pushkarani and Surya Pushkarani were desilted.

Waste water from the 'Gosalaa' and Kitchen is being treated at the treatment plant and the treated water is being used for watering temple gardens. Rainwater harvesting technique has been implemented in the temple, and the collected rain water is fed into the Pushkarani.

Five granaries in the temple complex have been renovated at a cost of Rs.50 lakh, as per the instructions of Archaeological Department. Thanks to the above steps taken by the Government, the ancient and the traditional look of the temple is maintained.

A nine-member Asia-Pacific UNESCO team, which inspected temple from 09.08.2017 to 11.08.2017, felt that the conservation work of the temple has revived the original fabric of the shrine and selected the temple for the "Award of Merit" for the year 2017.

On behalf of the Department of Tamil Development , Hon'ble Ministers Thiruvalargal D.Jayakumar (Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms) and P. Benjamin (Rural Industries), Tmt. B. Valarmathi, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation Dr. J. Jayavardhan, South Chennai MP, Thiru. R.Venkatesan I.A.S., Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information and Dr. K. Vijayaraghavan, Director, Department of Tamil Development offered floral tributes on 24.03.2018 to a portrait of Kavi Chakravarthi Kambar, placed near his statute at Anna Square, Chennai.

Chief Minister requests Police force to master modern technology

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at 61st All India Police Duty Meet – Valedictory Function on 28.02.2018.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,

Hon'ble Ministers,

Additional Chief Secretary - Home,

Secretary - Central Co-ordination Committee

Secretaries to Government of Tamil Nadu,

D.G.P - Tamil Nadu,

Senior Police Officers,

Hon'ble MPs and MLAs,

Friends from press - media and

Delegates from various States

and Central Armed Police Forces -

Good evening to all of you.

It gives me, immense pleasure, to be the Chief Guest of this function. Tamil Nadu has successfully hosted this prestigious meet in 1954, 1974, 1991, 2000 & 2006 and takes pride in hosting it for the sixth time. I hope, this meet, would have, provided an excellent opportunity, to the officers and rank of all the Police forces to sharpen their professional skills, to identify and overcome the short-comings and to prepare themselves better to serve the people of our country. I am told, that the, skills of 1,500 participants, from various State Police Forces and, Central Armed Police Forces, were tested in the fields of Scientific Aids to Investigation, Videography, Photography, Anti Sabotage Check and Computer Awareness. I am also told, that 140 Police dogs have exhibited their skills.

Our respected leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, had initiated, various path breaking

measures, to strengthen the Tamil Nadu Police Force. Some of her important initiatives are –

• Creation of the Uniform Services Recruitment Board, for ensuring transparent recruitment.

• Creation of All Women Police Stations to exclusively cater to the complaints and grievances of women. In fact, 40% of All Women Police Stations in our country are located in Tamil Nadu.

• Formation of Police Housing Corporation for construction of houses, for uniformed service personnel and buildings for the Police Department.

• Introduction of the Coastal Security Group, for policing our long coastline and for preventing bad elements into Tamil Nadu.

• Creation of the Highway Patrolling system, for preventing highway robbery and, for responding quickly during accidents, which has saved thousands of lives.

• Introduction of 49 Tamil Nadu Police Canteens, to benefit more than a lakh serving and retired Police Personnel.

• Introduction of "Own Your Housing Scheme", for the police personnel.

• Introduction of the Group Insurance Scheme for the Police Personnel, which has benefited them during accidents, resulting in death, permanent or partial disability, while performing their duties.

• Free health check up for the Police Personnel and their family members.

• Introduction of Special Police Youth Brigade to assist the Police force.

Due to the above measures, Tamil Nadu Police has reached great heights. I would like to list a few:

• Tamil Nadu Police has the highest number of Police Stations, in the Country. The R.S.Puram Police Station of Coimbatore City, has been ranked first, and Anna Nagar Police Station in Chennai City, as the fifth best Police Stations in the Country by the Government of India.

• Chennai city has been rated, as the safest city, for Women among the Metro cities and,

Coimbatore as the, safest city for Women & Children, among the major cities, by the National Crime Records Bureau.

Tamil Nadu was the first State, to announce cash awards, for the medalists and winners in the All India Police Sports Meet, by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the year 2004. In the year 2013, our beloved leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma enhanced the cash award by ten times.

• The Overall Trophy for the, highest medal winning team in the All India Police Duty Meet, was introduced in the year 2010 and with pride, I record that Tamil Nadu has bagged this trophy, four times since then. The Tamil Nadu Police has, created a record by winning 13 Gold, 9 Silver and 6 Bronze medals at the 57th All India Police Duty Meet at Haryana in 2013.

It has been our honour, to host the 61st All India Police Duty Meet. Tamil Nadu Police with its rich tradition of discipline, courtesy and competence had organized this Meet in the best possible manner.

I congratulate the Medal Winners for their outstanding performance and all the teams, which participated with dedication. I congratulate the DGP, Tamil Nadu and his team of officers, and rank for the successful conduct of this meet. I am sure, this meet would have helped the participants, from all parts of the Country, to improve their skills, and exchange of new ideas in their respective fields of expertise.

Peace, happiness and growth of a Country are determined on the basis of the maintenance of law and order. Your work of safeguarding law and order is a magnificent one. It is my firm view that the tireless work of the Police Department, day and night against a variety of challenges, keeps Tamil Nadu as a garden of peace. That is why, this Government which functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has taken interest in the welfare of Police Personnel and is extending several concessions.

You are showing dignity, determination, honesty, vigilance, humanism and dedication in your work. I affectionately request all of you to master modern technology, utilize it to handle cases and discharge your duty by the people more and more efficiently.

I take leave of you, conveying my hearty appreciation and greetings to all the Department Personnel who have won in these competitions.

Commending 'fairly balanced, growth-oriented budget', Chief Minister points out the cons

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on the Union Budget presented on 01.02.2018.

The Union Budget 2018-2019 has been presented by the Union Finance Minister today. This is the first budget in the post-GST regime and the last full budget for the present Government. I commend the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister for presenting the Budget which is fairly balanced, growth-oriented, that focuses on development of agriculture, rural development and health sector.

We welcome the decision of the Government of India to give a big push to the agricultural and allied sector. Enhancement of the minimum support price for all crops to cover atleast 1.5 times that of the production cost will benefit the farmers in a big way. However implementing this is a big challenge. The constitution of the Fisheries & Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund with a total corpus of Rs.10,000 crore will provide a significant impetus to the agriculture and allied sector. I hope that these funds will be operationalised immediately, along with the Micro Irrigation Fund and Dairy Development Fund, which were announced in last budget. I also appreciate the launching of 'Operation Green' with initial allocation of Rs.500 crore and Bamboo Development Fund with allocation of Rs.1,290 crore. We also welcome the proposed liberalisation of exports of agricultural commodities and are hopeful that the State of Tamil Nadu will benefit from the Mega Food Parks scheme that the Union Finance Minister alluded to in his speech. Doubling the allocation to the agro processing industry will bring more stability and enhance farmers' income. Tamil Nadu has taken the initiative of proactively forming many Farmer Producer Organizations. In the budget, 100% tax deduction has been extended to Farmer Producer Companies with turnover up to Rs.100 crore. We also welcome the move to include command area development under the long term irrigation fund. Overall, there are many initiatives in the agricultural sector, which will benefit the farming community.

The constitution of a dedicated Affordable Housing Fund in the National Housing Bank is a welcome move, but the allocation for the Prime Ministers' Awas Yojana has been reduced in the Budget. While the increase in the investment on infrastructure needs appreciation, the Government of India has given special focus on expanding the capacity of the suburban train systems in Mumbai and Bengaluru. Chennai is expanding faster and needs strengthening of its

suburban train system. This has been left out in the Budget. I hope the Union Government will also improve the suburban train system of Chennai.

Government of Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in implementing the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme. I commend the Union Finance Minister for announcing the National Health Protection Scheme that would provide health cover of Rs.5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalization. This programme would definitely augment the efforts of the State Government in providing health security to the poor and achieve the Mission of universal health care in the Country.

The Union Budget has reduced the rate of corporate tax to 25 percent to companies with turnover of less than Rs.250 crore. This will benefit the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. However, the expectations of the MS&ME are far greater and they need to be supported more, as they are the significant contributors to new employment generation.

The tax concession on interest accrual extended to senior citizens is a welcoming announcement. This Government has been requesting the Government of India to reduce the taxation burden on salaried individuals. We had hoped that Government of India would reduce tax on salaried individuals to boost consumption demand and economic growth. While we welcome the standard deduction of Rs.40,000/- announced in the budget speech, we feel that this falls short of the expectations of the public.

We were hopeful that the allocation on the National Social Assistance Programme would increase considerably, but it has remained stagnant. We had made an appeal to the Government of India to enhance the pension under the scheme from the meagre Rs.200/- or Rs.300/- per month to atleast Rs. 1,000/- per month. However the budget has not addressed this important scheme, designed to provide social security to the poor.

Though the Budget has given considerable importance to agriculture, rural development, health etc., the reduction in allocation in some of the sensitive and important schemes like post-matric scholarships for Scheduled Castes, Pradan Mantri Mathru Vandana Yojana, Skill Development and Livelihood Mission could have been avoided. The requirement of funds under the post-matric scholarship at the National level is very high, but this reduced allocation would further tighten the release to the State Governments. The Government of India could have increased the allocations substantially.

The Country is going through a difficult phase of economic development. It needs acceleration and stabilization of the growth momentum. The budget should give a boost to increase investment, generate more jobs. Given these circumstances, this budget is addressing the critical issues effectively and the Union Finance Minister has put his best efforts to present a balanced and growth oriented budget. I hope that this budget will bring fiscal stability to the Country and accelerate the economic growth.

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32 New Jeeps for Education Department officials to facilitate field inspection

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, flagged off at the Secretariat on 02.02.2018, 32 new jeeps for the District officials of the Education Department to be utilised during field inspection. The jeeps were purchased at a cost of Rs.1.92 crore. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presented appointment orders, issued on compassionate grounds, to 20 heirs of employees of the Department of Public Libraries who had died while in service.

To facilitate the education of the poor students in the State, the Tamil Nadu Government, functioning on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many schemes like free education, free distribution of 14 types of various welfare assistance including bus pass, bicycles, uniforms, text books, laptops and educational aids. Improvement of the infrastructure of schools, filling up of vacant teacher's posts for the uninterrupted learning of students and those of other non-teaching posts for executing the scheme works of the Education Department.

As announced in the floor of the Assembly during the Grants for the Education Department 2017-2018, new vehicles were purchased for the District Officials of the Department for undertaking frequent inspection of schools, for supervising the quality of education and to take up administrative works expeditiously.

The posts offered on compassionate grounds to 20 heirs of library employees who had died in harness, were commensurate to their educational qualifications like that of third grade librarian, lower grade assistant, record clerk and office assistant.

Multi-purpose building, 9 bridges declared open

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat in Chennai on 01.03.2018, a multi-purpose building at the State Institute of Rural Development Campus in Maraimalai Nagar in Kancheepuram District, constructed at a cost of Rs.12.71 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open 9 bridges, costing Rs.18.02 crore, constructed on behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Department.

The Tamil Nadu Government, following the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been facilitating protected drinking water supply, health services, road facilities, and bridges in rural areas and improving infrastructure facilities by constructing new buildings for dilapidated panchayat and panchayat union buildings to improve the living standards of the people.

In this connection, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open a multi-purpose building at the State Institute of Rural Development Campus at Maraimalai Nagar in Kancheepuram District through video conferencing.

Besides, a high-level bridge linking Seeliyur in Kaalamppalayam in Kaaramadai Panchayat Union in Coimbatore District, constructed at a cost of Rs.1.22 crore and another bridge connecting Bujanganur - Nanje gounden pudur Road, constructed at a cost of Rs.1.76 crore, were also declared open for public use.

Other bridges declared open on the occasion are: A high-level bridge, connecting Pondur

Vaayalur Road in Chithamur Panchayat Union in Kancheepuram District, costing Rs.60 lakh; a bridge at Thenpakkam, at a cost of Rs.60 lakh and a high-level bridge, linking Silambakkam Anumanthandalam Road in Uthiramerur Panchayat Union at a cost of Rs. 1.38 crore.

In Ramanathapuram District, a bridge connecting Ramanathapuram Melur Road and Gangaikondan Kollanur Road in Nainarkoil Panchayat Union, costing Rs. 4.75 crore; a bridge across South Puthaaru in Marangur Neikuppai Road in Thirumarugal Panchayat Union, at a cost of Rs.1.53 crore; bridge across Valappaaru in Marangur Neikuppai Road, constructed at a cost of Rs.1.58 crore and a high-level bridge connecting Pechipaarai Vettimurichan Road in Tiruvettar Panchayat Union in Kanniyakumari District at a cost of Rs 4.60 crore.

Totally a multi-purpose building, and 9 bridges, all costing Rs. 30.73 crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

'Many steps taken to de-stress Police Officers'

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 19.03.2018 on suicide incidents in the Police Department *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker,

A number of steps are taken continuously in the Police Department to prevent incidents of suicide by Police Personnel due to personal issues including family problems, health and love affairs.

Recently, Arunraj, a second grade Constable in the Greater Chennai Armed Police Force shot himself with his service rifle in the early morning on 04.03.2018 and committed suicide, while on sentry duty at the memorial of former Chief Minister Amma. Likewise, Sathishkumar, who was working as Assistant Inspector (Law and Order) at the Ayanavaram Police Station, Chennai shot himself with his service rifle in the early morning of 07.03.2018 at the Ayanavaram Police Station complex. Inquiries revealed that both the personnel had committed suicide due to personal problems.

However, great importance is given to reduce the mental stress of Police Personnel and to the maintenance of their health.

1. Steps are taken to give weekly rest to Police Personnel to the extent possible.

2. Working hours are regularized in cities and to the possible extent, 8-hours duty is given.

3. For safeguarding Police Officers and police personnel's health, along with weekly exercise, yoga and physical exercises are given in all Police Stations.

4. Besides, medical camps are held in the offices and residential areas of constables through prominent private hospitals for the benefit of Police Personnel and members of their families.

Many more things are there. Hence, I wish to inform the Hon'ble Member through you, that investigations have pinned personal reasons as the cause for the suicide of Police Constables.

‘Scrap restrictive clauses on Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies’

D.O. letter dated 01.03.2018 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that the Government of India under the National Handloom Development Programme has introduced two restrictive clauses for the Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies eligible for availing the Marketing Incentives. In the earlier scheme, there was neither time limitation, nor sales turn over as eligibility criteria, making it easier for the Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies for availing the Marketing Incentives. In the present scheme, two restrictive clauses have been introduced, namely, the Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies can avail incentives for maximum of 3 years only and the turn over should not be more than Rs.30 lakh.

In this regard, I wish to state that Societies having a turnover of more than Rs.30 lakh will become ineligible for availing the financial assistance under the scheme from the financial year 2017-2018. As per the new guidelines, it is estimated that only 285 Societies consisting of 53,140 weavers in the State would become eligible for getting the financial assistance under the Marketing Incentive, as against the 868 Weavers Co-operative Societies consisting of 2,69,030 Weavers as per the earlier guidelines.

By capping the sales turn over to Rs.30 lakh, the following issues will arise in the Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies:

i) Sale of handloom goods would be affected to a larger extent which will affect the existence of the Societies itself.

ii) There will not be any cash flow in the Societies and consequently continuous employment to weavers would be affected ultimately.

iii) Sustenance of weaving activity would get disturbed, which would lead to migration of weavers seeking other source of employment.

iv) Accumulation of stock of handloom goods.

v) Loss of Working capital due to stock accumulation.

The Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu are depending heavily on this Marketing Incentive to promote sales for many decades.

Already the societies in the State are struggling very hard to sell their handloom products, due to the impact of GST on handlooms and it becomes imperative that the Societies need continued support to liquidate the stocks. Moreover, Societies having a turnover of more than Rs.30 lakh also have more number of members and therefore would also need marketing support to face stiff competition from the powerloom sector. Ultimately, these Societies are providing employment to lakhs of weavers, which is the prime objective of the National Handloom Development Programme.

I therefore, request your kind intervention by directing the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India to remove the Rs.30 lakh sales turn over capping, as well as the 3 year time restriction as eligibility for availing the Marketing Incentive under the National Handloom Development Programme, so as to extend the benefit of Marketing Incentive to the entire handloom sector.

Chief Minister hands over Rs. 20 lakh cheques to kin of missing fishermen

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami handed over cheques at the Secretariat in Chennai on 14.03.2018, to the tune of Rs.35.40 crore to the families of 177 missing fishermen, at the rate of Rs. 20 lakh to each family as relief amount.

Due to Ockhi storm in Kanniyakumari District on 30.11.2017, fishing boats and other gadgets were badly damaged. Fishermen who went for deep fishing were found missing along with their boats. To rescue the fishermen, the Tamil Nadu Government along with Indian Navy, IAF and Coast Guard undertook massive rescue operations, in which a majority of fishermen were rescued and sent to their native places.

Thanks to the Tamil Nadu Government, which is following the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, 3,506 fishermen, their 24 Country boats, and 264 fishing power boats were rescued.

Despite the Tamil Nadu Government's best efforts to rescue the missing fishermen, 27 fishermen died due to Ockhi storm, and 177 fishermen, belonging to Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Pudukkottai, Nagapattinam and Cuddalore Districts were found missing.

As per the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami, the Collectors of Thoothukudi, Nagapattinam, and Kanniyakumari Districts handed over the relief amount of Rs.20 lakh each to the families of 27 fishermen, belonging to Tamil Nadu to the tune of Rs.5.40 crore.

Following this, to provide relief to the families of missing fishermen, a high-level committee under the Commissioner of Revenue Administration was formed.

As per the reports of the Commissioner, 139 fishermen belonging to Kanniyakumari District, 3 fishermen belonging to Thoothukudi, 15 belonging to Nagapattinam, 19 belonging to Cuddalore and one fisherman belonging to Pudukkottai, totally 177, were found missing.

For the families of missing fishermen, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami handed over cheques to the tune of Rs.36.40 crore at the rate of Rs. 20 lakh each to the family. ■

Tamil Virtual Academy's New Software

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, on behalf of the Information Technology Department, released the Tamil Inayam Software Suite-III, developed by the Tamil Virtual Academy under the Tamil Software Development programme, at the Secretariat on 13.03.2018.

With a view to help Tamil enthusiasts and Tamil computer researchers, the Tamil Virtual Academy, under the Tamil Nadu Innovative Initiative Scheme, is developing Tamil Software since 2015 at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore.

In the first phase, it was planned to develop 15 Tamil Software. Of them, the Tamil Inayam Software Suit I contains Tamil Unicode Convertor and Tamil Unicode Fonts. Tamil Inayam Software II has 5 software programmes. They are Tamil Text - to- Speech, Agriculture Enquiry System, Tholkappiam Information Retrieval System, Tamil Teaching and Learning Tool and Event Analysis Tool.

Tamil Inayam Software Suit I and the Tamil Inayam Software Suit II were released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami on 23.05.2017 and 11.10.2017 respectively. Tamil enthusiasts and students are downloading these software programmes free of cost from the site of Tamil Virtual University.

In continuation of its works, the Tamil Virtual University has developed the Tamil Inayam Software Suite III which contains 5 software programmes - Tamil spell check, Tamil dictionary compilation, Tamil Plagiarism Detection Software, Sentence Aggregator, and Corpus Analysis tools. These were released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat.

The newly released Tamil Inayam Software Suite III will be highly useful for typists, those designing Tamil books, book publishers, students, teachers and researchers. The software can be used for correcting the language errors while typing in Tamil, getting meaning of a word in Tamil Agaramudali, Tamil Lexicon and Kathirvel Pillai dictionary, compilation of sentences in Tamil portal and identification and analysis of words. The software can be freely downloaded from the site of the Tamil Virtual Academy.